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(72)Inventor: KAWATO YOSHIAKI

NAKAMOTO KAZUHIRO HOSHIYA HIROYUKI OKADA YASUYUKI

MOCHIZUKI MASABUMI

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(54) THIN FILM PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC RECORDING HEAD, ITS FABRICATION PROCESS, AND MAGNETIC DISK DRIVE USING SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a thin film perpendicular magnetic recording head which generates a high magnetic recording field exceeding 10kOe while having a narrow main pole coping with a high recording density in excess of 100Gb/in2 and is modified so as to suppress residual magnetic fields occurring immediately after a recording operation. SOLUTION: The thin film perpendicular magnetic recording head is provided with a main pole, a return path for supplying a magnetic flux to the main pole, and a conductor coil for excitation of the main pole and the return path, and the main pole has a pole width of 200nm or less and has a magnetic multilayer made of a high saturation flux density layer and a low

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saturation flux density layer, and the low saturation flux density layer has a thickness within 0.5 to 5nm, and the high saturation flux density layer has a thickness of 10 to 50nm,

and thus residual magnetization is suppressed and erasing after recording is prevented by adopting a closre magnetic domain structure in the pole.

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

the conductor for exciting a return path, and said main pole and said return path for supplying magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole -- the thin film magnetic head for vertical magnetic recordings which has a recording head equipped with a coil -- setting

The magnetic pole width of face of said main pole is 200nm or less,

Said main pole has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer,

Said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer contains a Fe-Co alloy,

The thin film magnetic head for vertical recording characterized by the sense of magnetization of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of the pair which counters through said hyposaturation flux density layer carrying out the anti-parallel array in said magnetic multilayers. [Claim 2]

the conductor for exciting a return path, and said main pole and said return path for supplying magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole -- the thin film magnetic head for vertical magnetic recordings which has a recording head equipped with a coil -- setting

The magnetic pole width of face of said main pole is 200nm or less,

Said main pole has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer,

The range of the thickness of said hyposaturation flux density layer is 0.5nm or more and 5nm or less,

The thin film magnetic head for vertical recording to which thickness of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is characterized by 10nm or more being 50nm or less.

[Claim 3]

The thin film magnetic head for vertical recording according to claim 2 to which thickness of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is characterized by 10nm or more being 20nm or less.

[Claim 4]

Said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording according to claim 2 characterized by containing a Fe-Co alloy.

[Claim 5]

Claim 1 characterized by for said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer being a ferromagnetic layer, and said hyposaturation flux density layer being a non-magnetic layer, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

The thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of a publication.

[Claim 6]

The number of layers of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer contained in said magnetic multilayers is claim 1 characterized by being four or more layers, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 7]

The number of layers of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer contained in said magnetic multilayers is claim 1 characterized by being ten or more layers, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 8]

Said magnetic multilayers are the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in claims 1 and 2 characterized by carrying out the laminating in the direction parallel to a perpendicular flat surface to the medium opposed face of said main pole.

[Claim 9]

Said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is claim 1 characterized by containing the alloy expressed with general formula (Fe70-xCo 30+x) 100-yMy (however, 0<=x<=20, 0<=y<=15, and M consist of nickel, B, Ti, Nb, aluminum, aluminum-O, Si, Si-O, or such combination.), and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 10]

The crystal structure of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is claim 1 characterized by mainly having body-centered cubic lattice structure, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 11]

The crystal structure of said hyposaturation flux density layer is claim 1 characterized by mainly having face-centered cubic lattice structure, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 12]

Said hyposaturation flux density layer is claim 1 characterized by including at least one or more sorts in nickel-Cr, nickel-Fe, nickel-Fe-Cr, and Ta, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 13]

The thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in claims 1 and 2 characterized by the thickness of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of the pair which faces each other through said hyposaturation flux density layer differing in said magnetic multilayers.

[Claim 14]

The thickness of the layer of the furthest side from a substrate of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layers of said main pole and the layer of the side nearest to a substrate is claim 1 characterized by being thinner than the other high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 15]

Furthermore, claim 1 characterized by having the reproducing head which has the magneto-resistive effect mold sensor which changes the spatial distribution of a leakage field into resistance change thru/or electrical-potential-difference change and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 16]

Said return path is claim 1 characterized by consisting of a York part which sends direct magnetic flux into said main pole, and at least two parts of an auxiliary magnetic pole with the field which countered the medium, and consisting of a ferromagnetic which all has saturation magnetic flux density lower than said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer, and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording given in two.

[Claim 17]

the conductor for exciting a return path, and said main pole and said return path for supplying magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole -- the manufacture approach of the thin film magnetic head for vertical magnetic recordings of having a recording head equipped with a coil -- setting

The deposition process which deposits the magnetic multilayers of a hyposaturation flux density layer and the high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer containing a Fe-Co alloy by sputtering on a substrate.

It is the manufacture approach of the description and the thin film magnetic head for ******** about including the etching process by ion milling.

[Claim 18]

In a magnetic-recording medium, the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording, the device in which said thin film magnetic head for vertical recording is positioned on said magnetic-recording medium, and the magnetic disk drive that performs coding of preservation data, and a decryption of

read-out data while passing a record current and the regenerative current to said thin film magnetic head for vertical recording,

A return path for the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording to supply magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole, It has a coil and the magnetic pole width of face of said main pole is 200nm or less, the conductor for exciting said main pole and said return path -- said main pole It has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer, the range of the thickness of said hyposaturation flux density layer is 0.5nm or more and 5nm or less, and the thickness of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is 10nm or more 50nm or less,

Said magnetic-recording medium is a magnetic disk drive characterized by including the recording layer which consists of a ferromagnetic of high coercive force which holds the written-in data by uniaxial magnetic anisotropy, and the magnetic-flux keeper layer of low coercive force which contributes to record field generating by the interaction with said record component. [Claim 19]

In a magnetic-recording medium, the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording, the device in which said thin film magnetic head for vertical recording is positioned on said magnetic-recording medium, and the magnetic disk drive that performs coding of preservation data, and a decryption of read-out data while passing a record current and the regenerative current to said thin film magnetic head for vertical recording,

A return path for the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording to supply magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole, It has a coil and the magnetic pole width of face of said main pole is 200nm or less. the conductor for exciting said main pole and said return path -- said main pole It has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer, said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer contains a Fe-Co alloy, and the sense of magnetization of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of the pair which counters through said hyposaturation flux density layer carries out an anti-parallel array in said magnetic multilayers,

Said magnetic-recording medium is a magnetic disk drive characterized by including the recording layer which consists of a ferromagnetic of high coercive force which holds the written-in data by uniaxial magnetic anisotropy, and the magnetic-flux keeper layer of low coercive force which contributes to record field generating by the interaction with said record component. [Claim 20]

Spacing based on [of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of said thin film magnetic head] thickness is a magnetic disk drive claim 18 characterized by being smaller than the twice of the distance of said main pole at the time of record playback actuation, and said keeper layer front face, and given in 19.

[Claim 21]

Said magnetic-flux keeper layer of said magnetic-recording medium is a magnetic disk drive claim 18 characterized by consisting of the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer, magnetic multilayers of a ferromagnetic layer and a non-magnetic layer, or magnetic multilayers of a ferromagnetic layer and an antiferromagnetism layer, and given in 19.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

a record field with this invention high also in the case of the narrow track corresponding to high density magnetic recording -- it can generate -- in addition -- and it is related with the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of high reliance which operates to stability, its manufacture approach, and the magnetic disk drive using this.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

Digitization of various media is advancing quickly with development of an information processing technique. In addition to the personal computer and server from the former, the need of storing a lot of digital information also in household electric appliances, an audio, etc. has arisen, and the magnetic disk drives used as the nucleus of a non-volatile file system increase in number until now, and are asked for rapid large capacity-ization. It means raising more, the bit density, i.e., the surface recording density, recorded on large capacity-ization of a magnetic disk drive, i.e., a medium top. [0003]

Generally the recording method in the magnetic disk drive by which current utilization is carried out is called the recording method within a field. This is a method which records information by using as a record medium the ferromagnetic which has big coercive force in the direction parallel to a disk substrate side, and magnetizing this record medium to substrate side inboard. In this case, the flux reversal section with which the magnetization within a field made the include angle which is 180 degrees and which it has faced corresponds to 1 which is a bit.

In order to raise surface recording density, it is necessary to increase the bit density (track recording density) of a disk circumferencial direction, and disk radial bit density (track density) to coincidence. Although track density is restricted by the magnetic pole width-of-face formation process of record/reproducing head, and the positioning accuracy of a device system, these are mainly only technical technical problems. On the other hand, increase of track recording density is considered that a record medium receives theoretic constraint according to the fact of being the aggregate of a ferromagnetic particle.

[0005]

[0004]

Since magnetization has faced each other focusing on flux reversal in the recording method within a field, the big internal field called an anti-field in the direction which decreases magnetization is produced around this flux reversal. The field where sufficient value is not reached, a transition region, i.e., magnetization, with the width of face of finite, is formed in the flux reversal section of this anti-field.

[0006]

If the magnetization transition region which adjoins each other when it carries out by narrowing bit spacing interferes, un-arranging [of the location of substantial flux reversal shifting] will occur. For this reason, it is necessary to make width of face of a magnetization transition region smaller than bit spacing at least. Therefore, while specifically improving the coercive force of a medium, it is required a configuration which a medium overcomes for raising track recording density at an anti-

field, and is magnetized, and to reduce the thickness of a record magnetic film and to control an antifield. For this reason, track recording density will be strongly restricted by the configuration and magnetic properties of a medium. [0007]

By the standard recording method within a field, the ratio of track recording density and track density is made desirable [carrying out to about five to about ten]. When realizing recording density of 100 Gb/in2 (1011 bits per 1 square inch) on the basis of this condition, bit spacing of a circumferencial direction is set to about 25nm. If the need property of a medium that on the other hand flux reversal width of face is set to 25nm or less with an easy model is estimated, 15nm or less of medium thickness and more than coercive force 5kOe (oersted) will serve as a requirement. [0008]

2.4T [however,] (tesla) which are the maximum saturation magnetic flux density (henceforth, Bs) which can expect the record field which the record component of the recording method within a field can generate to an usable magnetic pole ingredient -- as a premise -- at most -- 9kOe extent is considered to be a limit. In this case, if the coercive force of a medium recording layer exceeds 5kOe (s), reservation of the record field which can fully magnetize a medium will become difficult. If the thickness of a magnetic film is set to 15nm or less, since a substantial medium crystal grain child's volume will become small, it becomes impossible moreover, to disregard the magnitude of heat energy (namely, energy which carries out the turbulence of the magnetization) compared with the anisotropy energy (namely, energy which is going to stabilize magnetization in the fixed direction) of each particle in Co alloy system magnetic film. For this reason, the heat fluctuation of magnetization becomes remarkable and the problem of heat demagnetization that the magnitude of record magnetization decreases along with the passage of time occurs. In order to control heat demagnetization, it is necessary to increase coercive force further or to increase the volume of crystal grain.

[0009]

However, when the head field is restricted like point **, there is an upper limit in the coercive force which can be permitted. Moreover, increasing thickness for volume increase of crystal grain means increase of the magnetization transition region by the increment in an anti-field, i.e., the fall of possible track recording density. On the other hand, if it is going to secure the crystal grain volume in the crystal size of field inboard, since run DAMUNESU of the magnetization distribution in a medium will become large, increase of a medium noise is imitated, it comes and sufficient signal S/N ratio is no longer obtained. Thus, theoretic difficulty is expected in order to realize record within a field exceeding surface recording density 100 Gb/in2, satisfying the conditions of heat demagnetization resistance, a low noise, and sufficient record.

The vertical recording method was proposed in order to avoid this theoretic difficulty. A vertical recording method is a method which forms magnetization of a thin film medium at right angles to a film surface, and differs from the case where a record principle is the conventional magnetic-recording medium within a field. Since it becomes an antiparallelism array, without adjoining magnetization facing each other, vertical magnetic recording is not influenced of an anti-field. Therefore, it is expected that a magnetization transition region can very be narrowed and they are slight height and a cone about track recording density. Moreover, since it is the same and the demand to the formation of a medium thin film is not so strong as the record within a field, high resistance is securable also to heat demagnetization.

[0011]

Thus, vertical magnetic recording attracts attention as a method which was essentially suitable for high density magnetic recording, and the configuration of the thin film magnetic head combined with the ingredient and structure of various media, and them is proposed. There are a method which uses the perpendicular magnetic anisotropy films of a monolayer for a vertical recording method, and a method which adjoins the disk substrate side of perpendicular magnetic anisotropy films, and prepares the magnetic-flux keeper layer of low coercive force.

If a two-layer vertical-magnetic-recording medium with a magnetic-flux keeper layer is used, the

advantage of becoming possible to generate the big record field which has steeper distribution compared with the ring head used in the record within a field in combination with the record component of (2) single magnetic pole mold which can reduce the anti-field generated in (1) recording layer can be considered. This technique is described by nonpatent literature 1, for example.

[0013]

The medium which prepared the perpendicular magnetic anisotropy films which consist of a CoCr alloy as a vertical-magnetic-recording medium of this method on the magnetic-flux keeper layer which consists of soft magnetism layers, such as a permalloy, and Fe system amorphous alloy thru/or a fine crystal alloy, is examined. Furthermore, the so-called granular medium which distributed Co system magnetic-substance particle is examined in the so-called population grid film, such as Co/Pd and Co/Pt, or SiO2 as a recording layer in recent years, and the magnetic multilayers which combined in antiferromagnetism the cascade screen or the ferromagnetic layers which stabilized the magnetic domain by using the antiferromagnetic substance as a keeper layer are used. [0014]

Generally the gestalt of the record component used in the vertical recording using the medium for vertical recording which has a magnetic-flux keeper layer is called a single magnetic pole mold record component. Not the configuration that this faces each other through a gap layer with two very thin magnetic poles like the so-called ring type record component in the record within a field but the structure which one magnetic pole (main pole) 13 has projected toward the medium like <u>drawing 1</u> is the description. However, in order to form a magnetic path, the magnetic pole called the submagnetic pole 16 by arrangement which sandwiches a coil 17 in between is prepared.

existence of this submagnetic pole 16 -- the main pole -- it is the description that the magnetic path of 13 -> magnetic-flux keeper layer 19 -> secondary magnetic pole 16 -> York 14 and the 15 -> main pole 13 is constituted, and record actuation can be performed at the optimal effectiveness. Since the magnetic flux which flows between the main pole 13 and the keeper layers 19 serves as arrangement which crosses a recording layer 18, the flow of this magnetic flux makes a record field, and the record bit 20 is formed into a recording layer 18.

[0016]

There is a problem of the residual magnetization of the main pole as one of the serious problems peculiar to the vertical recording using the interaction of such a record component of a single magnetic pole mold, and a magnetic-flux keeper layer. This is the phenomenon pointed out in nonpatent literature 2.

[0017]

This phenomenon is called " erase-after-write " (after [record] elimination), and signs that the signal on a medium is eliminated by the direct-current field by the residual magnetization immediately after record actuation are indicated. The head is moving continuously into an actual magnetic disk drive in the disk top. Therefore, when such a phenomenon occurs in record actuation, there is a possibility of reaching far and wide on a disk very much, and eliminating data and servo information.

[0018]

This is considered to be a fatal fault in the viewpoint of the dependability of a magnetic-recording regeneration system. The approach of optimizing the configuration of York in the patent reference 1 is indicated as a means to avoid this phenomenon. According to this approach, it is avoidable that elimination after record occurs by the residual magnetization produced into the York part. [0019]

However, since it must miniaturize according to increase of recording density, the amount of [which, as for the York part, specifies narrow recording track width of face to a thing with the comparatively high degree of freedom of a dimension and a configuration] magnetic pole point needs to control residual magnetization with a completely different means. As one of such the means, the approach using magnetic multilayers is learned in the thin film 1 micron or less like the main pole material of the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording. [0020]

The configuration which uses multilayers for the main pole of the single magnetic pole head for vertical recording is indicated by the patent reference 2. Moreover, the optimal ingredient and the lamination for stabilizing the magnetic domain in magnetic multilayers are indicated by the patent reference 3, the patent reference 4, and the patent reference 5. However, each of these aims at stabilization by single-domain-izing of a magnetic film, and a magnetic pole which is mentioned later is unsuitable thru/or inadequate as a means to prevent elimination after record caused by single domain-ization for which it comes from becoming narrow. Furthermore, the example of the thin film magnetic head using the magnetic layer which also becomes the patent reference 6 from multilayers is indicated. However, this indicates the technique which fixes a magnetic domain in order to control the noise accompanying the magnetic-domain structural change at the time of the playback actuation seen in the ring type thin film magnetic head used for the record within a field. Therefore, it is clear that a configuration is also unsuitable unlike a means to control the residual magnetization of the magnetic pole point at the time of record.

[0021]

Moreover, it is premised on nickel-Fe, the Fe-nickel alloy, and the ingredient with which comparatively good soft magnetic characteristics are obtained like Fe in the above-mentioned indication, and it is thought that it is unsuitable as a combination with an ingredient exceeding 2.2T of high Bs like the Fe-Co alloy which is needed towards future narrow-track-izing. [0022]

[Patent reference 1]

JP,2001-291212,A

[Patent reference 2]

JP,2002-324303,A

[Patent reference 3]

JP,5-54320,A

[Patent reference 4]

JP,6-195636,A

[Patent reference 5]

JP,7-135111,A

[Patent reference 6]

JP,3-49008,A

[Nonpatent literature 1]

IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. MAG-20, No.5, September 1984, pp. 657-662,

" Perpendicular Magnetic Recording-Evolution and Future "

[Nonpatent literature 2]

IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. MAG-32, No.1, January 1996, pp.97-102, " Challenges in the Practical Implementation of Perpendicular Magnetic Recording "

[Nonpatent literature 3]

The 198th. Meeting of The Electrochemical Meeting of Society Abstracts No. 582 [0023]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

In the thin film magnetic head for vertical magnetic recordings for realizing high recording density exceeding 100 Gb/in2, in order to write a sharp bit in the magnetic-recording medium of high coercive force of 5 or more kOes, it is necessary to generate the strong field which exceeds 10kOe(s) from a narrow magnetic pole with a width of face of 200nm or less. [0024]

<u>Drawing 2</u> is as a result of [of having searched for the record field distribution which a single magnetic pole mold record component generates at a recording track core with the three-dimension finite element method] count. Magnetic pole width of face was set to 150nm considered to be the need by 140 Gb/in2. Four curves correspond, respectively, when Bs(es) are 2.4T, 2.2T, 2.0T, and 1.6T.

[0025]

In order to generate the record field which exceeds 10kOe(s) from this result with the record component of the narrow track corresponding to the high recording density exceeding 100 Gb/in2, it

turns out that it is indispensable to use for a magnetic pole point the ferromagnetic alloy mainly concerned with Fe-Co with high Bs beyond 2.2T.
[0026]

Drawing 3 is the result of evaluating the output change when producing the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of a large number from which record magnetic pole width of face differs using such a high Bs ingredient, and repeating 100 record playback actuation as an index of extent of elimination after record. The axis of abscissa expresses the magnetic pole width of face of each head for the output rate of change to which the axis of ordinate standardized the above-mentioned output change with the average output to which it lets 100 times pass. Only magnetic pole width of face differs between each head, and other parameters are fixed.

It is clear from this result that elimination after record hardly occurs [magnetic pole width of face] with a head 200nm or more, but extent of elimination after record increases rapidly by the bordering on 200nm narrow track side. In addition, less than 10% of output change seen by magnetic pole width of face of 200nm or more is check ending about most being fluctuation of own sensibility of a playback component.

[0028]

It has been thought that elimination after record originates in the high recording efficiency by the combination of a single magnetic pole mold record component and the keeper layer by the side of a medium conventionally. since [namely,] an anti-field usually arises on the medium opposite side front face of a magnetic pole -- a record component -- although it is hard to generate residual magnetization if independent, it is the mechanism of the anti-field in a magnetic pole being mitigated in a magnetic-flux keeper layer existing, and becoming easy to produce residual magnetization. [0029]

By the result of <u>drawing 2</u>, frequency is increasing to this by the narrow track side with which recording efficiency falls clearly. Therefore, it turns out that elimination after record by which the elimination phenomenon after record at this time is indicated in the above-mentioned example of a citation is the different mode, and is a completely different thing as physical development which has occurred within the record component.

[0030]

Magnetization of a ferromagnetic can be considered to be the aggregate of the minute magnetic moment called spin. These spin is always interacting so that the sense of the vector of the moment may be equal to an one direction with an interaction called switched connection. However, in the ferromagnetic processed into the magnitude of finite, in order to prevent static magnetism-energy increasing by the magnetic pole generated in the periphery section, being divided into the small field to which magnetization is called a uniform magnetic domain only in each interior is known. [0031]

There is no need that magnetization of a different magnetic domain at this time turns to the not necessarily same direction, and arrangement which becomes the structure which magnetization closed as a whole is taken. The magnetic domain wall which is the boundary of this magnetic domain has limited width of face. Although the magnitude changes with the classes and gestalten of the magnetic substance since it is decided by contention of static magnetism-energy and the switched connection energy by adjacent spin not gathering, it becomes dozens to hundreds of nm order in the ferromagnetic mainly concerned with Fe known well, Co, etc. Therefore, when the scale of the magnetic substance becomes small at hundreds of nm or less, it is in the inclination which cannot make a magnetic domain wall in the interior, but becomes reverse with a single magnetic domain (it single-domain-izes).

[0032]

<u>Drawing 4</u> is the result of searching for the magnetization condition of a magnetic pole point by simulation, and calculating residual magnetization. The axis of ordinate expresses the leakage field by residual magnetization, and an axis of abscissa is magnetic pole width of face. This result also shows that a residual field increases rapidly by setting magnetic pole width of face to 200nm or less. [0033]

Drawing 5 is the mimetic diagram of the magnetization condition of the magnetic pole point required

in the above-mentioned simulation. The arrow head 55 in drawing expresses the direction of magnetization. Although magnetization has taken the so-called closure domain structure when magnetic pole width of face is 300nm and the large magnetic pole 51 (a), by 100nm and the narrow magnetic pole 52 (b), magnetic pole width of face is a single domain mostly, therefore is understood that the big residual field has occurred. [0034]

When the magnetization condition in the medium opposed face of magnetic pole width of face of 300nm and a 120nm record component was observed with the spin polarization scanning electron microscope (spin SEM), and magnetic pole width of face was as wide as 300nm too, it actually turned out that magnetization has single-domain-ized almost to being divided into many magnetic domains which turned to various directions when magnetic pole width of face is as small as 120nm. From these results, the rapid increment in elimination after record by magnetic pole width of face of 200nm or less observed in drawing 3 is concluded to be what is depended on single domain-ization of a main pole point.

[0035]

Thus, in the magnetic pole of small size, since the inclination magnetization carries out [the inclination] entropy is strong, it is easy to generate residual magnetization, and there is a danger that elimination after record will occur frequently during equipment actuation. In addition, residual magnetization ***** can become the factor in which it also induces elimination after record that soft magnetic characteristics are generally inferior to a magnetization curve in an ingredient of high Bs like the above-mentioned Fe-Co alloy as compared with typical soft magnetic materials, such as nickel80Fe20, i.e., a big hysteresis often appears by distribution of a crystal magnetic anisotropy, and that it is the ingredient which has a big magnetostriction constant by forward. It is because it means that residual magnetization in case there is no excitation is large and having the magnetic anisotropy by which induction was carried out in the direction perpendicular to a medium opposed face is known for the effectiveness of different direction-[an ingredient forward in a magnetostriction constant | stress in the thin film magnetic head on the other hand, if this has the large hysteresis of a soft magnetic material (generally called a reverse magnetostrictive effect.). It is nonpatent literature 3 reference as an example.

[0036]

Therefore, we are anxious about elimination after the record in which the effectiveness of singledomain[which the crystal magnetic anisotropy of a direction perpendicular to a medium opposed face became strong in addition to that magnetization tends (magnetic shape anisotropy) to turn / that / to the direction of a major axis by being a configuration / be / from the first / square pole-like / a main pole point / long and slender /, and carried out point **]-izing originates in the residual magnetization for a magnetic pole point conjointly becoming easier to take place. Therefore, even if the residual magnetization of a direction perpendicular to a medium opposed face occurs, a configuration to which a residual field is not impressed substantially will be needed for a magneticrecording medium.

[0037]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

this invention person etc. found out that the magnetic substance took closure domain structure also in the magnetic pole of very small size, and residual magnetization was controlled in the recording head of the vertical-magnetic-recording thin film magnetic head by optimizing the lamination of the magnetic multilayers which can cut effectively the exchange interaction in the magnetic substance which caused single-domain-izing, and the combination of an ingredient. [0038]

In order to solve an above-mentioned problem, namely, the vertical-magnetic-recording thin film magnetic head and the magnetic disk drive concerning this invention In the thin film magnetic head for vertical magnetic recordings which has a recording head equipped with a coil the conductor for exciting the return path, said main pole, and said return path for supplying magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole -- The magnetic pole width of face of said main pole is 200nm or less, said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer contains a Fe-Co alloy, and the sense of magnetization of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of the pair which counters through said

hyposaturation flux density layer is characterized by carrying out the anti-parallel array in said magnetic multilayers. In addition, it is careful of hyposaturation flux density being a concept also including nonmagnetic [so-called] here.

[0039]

Moreover, it has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer and a hyposaturation flux density layer, the range of the thickness of said hyposaturation flux density layer is 0.5nm or more and 5nm or less, and, as for said main pole, it is desirable that the thickness of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is 10nm or more 50nm or less. [0040]

Since according to invention the magnetic multilayers contained in the main pole take closure domain structure and residual magnetization is controlled, the vertical-magnetic-recording thin film magnetic head and the magnetic disk drive by which elimination after record was prevented can be offered.

[0041]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

the conductor for exciting a return path, said main pole, and said return path for the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording which applied this invention supplying magnetic flux to the main pole and said main pole at least -- it has a coil. And the magnetic pole width of face of the main pole is 200nm or less, the main pole has the magnetic multilayers of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer (high Bs layer) and a hyposaturation flux density layer (low Bs layer), and a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer is characterized by containing a Fe-Co alloy. [0042]

And the range of the thickness of a hyposaturation flux density layer is 0.5nm or more and 5nm or less, and when the thickness of a high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer controls with 10nm or more 50nm or less, in magnetic multilayers, the sense of magnetization of said high saturation-magnetic-flux-density layer of the pair which counters through said hyposaturation flux density layer becomes what carried out the anti-parallel array.

[0043]

It is desirable that they are four or more layers, and if the thickness of each high Bs layer considers the number of layers of a high Bs layer as the configuration which is not fixed, it is more effective. As for the number of layers of a high Bs layer, ten or more layers, then more perfect effectiveness are acquired.

[0044]

The ferromagnetic which raised soft magnetic characteristics more can be used for a high Bs layer by adding 10 or less % of alloying element. At this time, if said quantity Bs layer has body-centered cubic lattice structure, it will become possible to reconcile high Bs beyond 2.2T, and better soft magnetic characteristics of it.

[0045]

In addition, the laminating of the magnetic multilayers which consist of a high Bs layer and a low Bs layer is carried out in the direction parallel to a perpendicular flat surface to the medium opposed face of the main pole.

[0046]

Moreover, too, it is less than [2.2T], as for Bs of said low Bs layer from a viewpoint of soft magnetic characteristics thru/or a non-magnetic layer, it is desirable to have face-centered cubic lattice structure as the crystal structure, and nickel-Cr, nickel-Fe, nickel-Fe-Cr, Ta, etc. are suitable for it as an ingredient.

[0047]

Since said main pole needs to generate a high record field for the magnetic-recording medium of high coercive force to be magnetizable enough, it is desirable that said low Bs layer thru/or non-magnetic layer is 5nm or less as a thickness configuration of magnetic multilayers, said quantity Bs layer is 50nm or less, or it is these both combination. Furthermore, more perfect effectiveness will be acquired if said quantity Bs layer is 20nm or less.

[0048]

As a means to form the main pole which consists of the above magnetic multilayers, the combination

of the deposition process by sputtering and the etching process by ion milling is the optimal. [0049]

The return path of said record component is using the monolayer or the multilayer soft magnetism film with which Bs's consists of a small ingredient below 2.2T, and can realize stable record actuation at the optimal effectiveness.

[0050]

By applying the above configurations in two or more independent or combination, residual magnetization becomes possible [supplying cheaply the hardly generated thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of high reliance].

[0051]

Moreover, implementation of offer of large capacity, high performance, and a cheap magnetic disk drive is attained by combining such the thin film magnetic head with the magnetic-recording medium equipped with the magnetic-flux keeper layer. Since there is effectiveness which controls the residual magnetization of the record component main pole in that case when a magnetic-flux keeper layer is made a multilayer configuration, the dependability of equipment can be raised more. [0052]

In addition, the attempt which raises attainment recording density further is actively performed in recent years by giving the component of field inboard intentionally to the magnetic anisotropy and record field of a medium recording layer. However, also in such a method, since the vertical component is still more dominant than the component within a field, the record field is usually classified into the vertical recording method. Moreover, the field component within a field is added to a record field with devising gestalten, such as a submagnetic pole, or the record component of the structure which has improved record field inclination is examined, and since the fundamental function to magnetize a medium by the field which comes out of the medium opposed face side of the main pole does not change, these may also be called thin film magnetic head for vertical recording. Therefore, even if it applies this invention to these magnetic-recording systems thru/or a record component, it is effective.

[0053]

Hereafter, the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording and the magnetic disk drive which applied this invention are explained to a detail with reference to a drawing.

[0054]

In the ambient atmosphere of a 6mm toll, to the base in which the structure beforehand required for a ceramic substrate was formed, the magnetic multilayers (magnetic multilayers) which constitute the main pole of this invention carried out sequential deposition, and produced the ingredient which constitutes a magnetic pole from .Ar ** 1 produced as follows with the RF magnetron sputtering system. As a sputtering target, Fe-Co, nickel-Cr, nickel-Fe-Cr, Ta and aluminum, aluminum-O, Si, and Si-O were used. The cascade screen impressed high-frequency power to the cathode which has arranged each target respectively, generated the plasma in equipment, opened and closed every one shutter arranged at each cathode, and formed each class one by one.

At the time of film formation, the field was impressed in parallel with a substrate side using the permanent magnet, and the uniaxial-crystal magnetic anisotropy was given. a series of processes that formation of the component on a base includes the process which exposes and develops a photoresist, and an ion milling process -- patterning was carried out. Finally, the base was machined to the slider and carried in the magnetic disk drive combining the suspension made from stainless steel.

[0056]

[Example 1]

<u>Drawing 6</u> is the sectional view showing the configuration of the magnetic multilayers used for the first example of this invention. On a base 61, the high Bs layer 63 and a non-magnetic layer 64 deposit by turns through the substrate film 62, and, finally it is covered with the protective layer 65. The high Bs layer 63 is Fe70Co30 with body-centered cubic lattice structure, and the substrate film 62 and a non-magnetic layer 64 are nickel80Cr(s)20 which all have face-centered cubic lattice structure (3nm of thickness). In addition, <u>drawing 6</u> expresses the magnetic multilayers seen from the

medium opposed face.

[0057]

Since it is made to be 200nm in total, the thickness of the high Bs layer 63 is 25nm per layer in the example of <u>drawing 6</u>. Moreover, a low Bs layer is a nickel-Cr alloy, and thickness could be 3nm. When the magnetization curve was measured, the direction of an easy axis and the direction of a hard axis of coercive force were big values in forward [anisotropy field / Hk / less than 4 Oes and / +5x10-6 and forward] in 10 or less Oes and a magnetostriction constant. Bs of the high Bs layer 63 is 2.4, and is in agreement with Bs predicted from the phase diagram of the Fe-Co-nickel the alloy of 3 yuan shown in <u>drawing 7</u>.

[0058]

In addition, since Bs of the high Bs layer 63 is more than 2.2T in all the examples described below including this example, what is necessary is just the presentation of the part 71 which was surrounded on the boundary of 2.2T on the phase diagram of <u>drawing 7</u> in the case of the Fe-Conickel alloy. In the presentation expressed with 100-gammaMgamma (however M being B, Ti, Nb, aluminum, aluminum-O, Si, and Si-O 0<=gamma<=15) on the other hand (FealphaCobeta), in order for Bs as a 3 yuan alloy including Additive M to be more than 2.2T, it is desirable that it is the presentation equivalent to the part by which FealphaCobeta was surrounded in <u>drawing 7</u> on the boundary of 2.4T.

[0059]

Moreover, although the high Bs layer 63 showed the example of four layers in <u>drawing 6</u>, we produced the head to which the number of layers was changed to one to 25 layers here. [0060]

(1) resist spreading from these magnetic multilayers -- pass a wafer process and slider processing process including a - BEKU process (2) exposure process (3) development process (4) ion-milling process -- drawing 8 showed the formed thin film magnetic head. Here, although referred to as 150nm, if it is 200nm or less in magnetic pole width of face, as for the magnetic pole width of face in the medium opposed face of the main pole 13, it turns out that the same result is completely obtained. Although York 14, the return path 15, and the submagnetic pole 16 consisted of a ferromagnetic ingredient mainly all concerned with the ** nickel-Fe alloy, since nickel presentation was made into 80% or more, Bs is less than [1T] and the magnetostriction constant showed the negative value. Thus, it has the inclination stabilized by using a negative magnetostriction ingredient according to the reverse magnetostrictive effect which carried out point ** in the direction where magnetization of York section 14, return path 15, and the submagnetic pole 16 is parallel to a medium opposed face, and it became possible to avoid problems resulting from magnetization conditions other than a magnetic pole point, such as a residual field and instability.

Although the playback component is omitted here, it is possible to combine with the playback component of all the principle and structures containing the current mold giant magneto-resistance (CIP-GMR) component within a field, a perpendicular current mold huge magnetic-reluctance (CPP-GMR) component, and a tunnel magnetic-reluctance (TMR or MTJ) component also including all the following examples.

[0062]

<u>Drawing 9</u> shows the count result performed in order to ask for the optimal lamination, before producing a head. As point ** was carried out, since a magnetostriction constant is usually forward, the high Bs ingredient exceeding 2.2T has the inclination for magnetization to become easy to turn to a medium opposed face according to a reverse magnetostrictive effect. Therefore, even if the magnetization 101 of each high Bs layer 63 turns to a medium opposed face, it must be made for a residual field 102 to have to become sufficiently low in designing a film configuration. [0063]

The advantage when multilayering is that the magnetization 101 of each high Bs layer carries out an anti-parallel array as shown in <u>drawing 9</u> (a). Therefore, a residual field 102 becomes by flowing back by the magnetic pole side that it is hard to be impressed by the medium. <u>Drawing 9</u> (b) is the result of calculating the number-of-layers dependency of a residual field on the assumption that this anti-parallel array. As shown all over drawing, when this field considers that it must be smaller than

medium coercive force, a number of layers is understood that at least four or more layers are required.

[0064]

In this way, the result in which the produced head for vertical recording carried out characterization was shown in <u>drawing 10</u>. <u>Drawing 10</u> (a) is the lamination dependency of output rate of change. <u>Drawing 10</u> (b) is the lamination dependency of an over-writing elimination ratio. It turns out that output rate of change improves sharply by four or more layers so that the count result of <u>drawing 9</u> may be supported. Furthermore, in ten or more layers, output rate of change is fixed at 10% or less. Since it is fluctuation of own sensibility of a playback component as point ** of 10% or less of the output fluctuation was carried out, by ten or more layers, it is thought that elimination after record was inhibited nearly completely.

[0065]

Although relative frequency distribution of output rate of change was shown in drawing 11 about the group of the head of the number of each class, to be sure by ten layers, it can check that all heads have 10% or less of output rate of change. On the other hand, when drawing 10 (b) was seen, an over-writing elimination ratio began to deteriorate in 20 or more layers, and the result of being less than 30dB generally needed was obtained in 25 layers. This is for the rate of the volume which a non-magnetic layer occupies by the whole magnetic pole increasing, if a number of layers is increased too much, and causing the fall of a record field.

Four or more layers of number of layerses of a high Bs layer are required, and the result of this example showed that the more perfect effectiveness in ten or more layers was acquired. This is equivalent to 50nm or less of thickness of each high Bs layer being 20nm or less still more desirably. On the other hand, 10nm or more of the field of the record engine performance to number of layerses is required for 20 or less layers and thickness.

[0067]

In addition, it is required to be that it is smaller than Bs of a high Bs layer at least (less than [i.e.,] 2.2) and a desirable ingredient not more than 2.0T with a small crystal MAG magnetic anisotropy etc. as the non-magnetic layer 63 which is a low Bs layer for separating a high Bs layer, and a substrate layer 62. Although the nickel-Cr alloy generally made nonmagnetic at a room temperature was used here, the equivalent result was able to be obtained when non-magnetic materials, such as a low Bs ingredient containing magnetic elements, such as nickel-Fe, and Ta, nickel-Fe-Cr, were contained, and the crystal structure was face centered cubic structure. Moreover, when consisting of an ingredient which is different also when the substrate layer 62 and an interlayer 63 consist of the same ingredient, and it chooses from the above-mentioned ingredient group, the similarly good result is obtained.

[8800]

Various configurations examined thickness of a low Bs layer. It turned out that 0.5nm or more is required in order to first prevent ferromagnetic-like association between high [by membranous surface smoothness / each / Bs] (generally called the orange peel effectiveness). Next, although it is about an upper limit, drawing 12 shows the result of having surveyed the over-writing elimination ratio at the time of changing the thickness of the low Bs layer 63 in 0.5 to 10nm. This result shows that the recording characteristic has deteriorated sharply, when the low Bs layer 63 exceeds 5nm. Since the rate of the low Bs layer occupied to the main pole increased, this produces the same effectiveness, and since the record field fell, it is considered as the whole Bs fell substantially.

<u>Drawing 13</u> indicates the conceptual diagram of a magnetic disk drive which carried the magnetic-recording medium which has a magnetic-flux keeper layer to be the head produced in the first example of the above. The slider 121 in which the thin film magnetic head was formed is supported by the suspension arm 122, is positioned on a disk 124 according to the positioning device 123, and write information in a desired location. [reading and] As for the disk 124, rotation is controlled by the spindle motor 125. On the disk 124, the signal (servo signal) which shows a location beforehand is recorded, and the closed loop control is performed by feeding back to the positioning device 123, after processing the servo signal which the head read in the device control circuit 130.

[0070]

It is orthopedically encoded and operated by the suitable approach for a magnetic-recording system in a data sign and a record circuit 128, the user data containing through the external interface 127 are changed into a record current wave form, and a bit is written in a medium by exciting a record component. Conversely, it is changed into an electric signal on a playback component sensing the leakage field which comes out of the written-in bit, and user data are reproduced through waveformshaping / decryption processing by the suitable approach for a magnetic-recording system by data playback and the decoder circuit 129. Thus, as a result of using the thin film magnetic head which applied this invention to the magnetic disk drive which operates, the actuation stabilized without starting the abnormalities by elimination after record etc. was realizable. Thereby, the magnetic disk drive of large capacity and high-reliability can be cheaply offered now.

In addition, when distance of a thickness center to center was set to D and distance of the main pole point at the time of equipment actuation and a magnetic-flux keeper layer was set to H, it turned out that it excels especially in dependability D<=2xH, then over a long period of time so that magnetic flux may flow back effectively between the high Bs layers of the main pole in a residual magnetization condition.

[0072]

In the magnetic-recording medium which was used until now and which has a magnetic-flux keeper layer, the configuration of a magnetic-flux keeper layer consisted of a ferromagnetic layer of a monolayer, as shown in drawing 1 R> 1, but in order to realize more stable actuation of a magnetic disk drive, and high dependability, it is effective to constitute a magnetic disk drive combining the thin film magnetic head which applied the magnetic-recording medium which considered the magnetic-flux keeper layer as the multilayer configuration, and this invention.

[0073]

Drawing 14 is the sectional view showing the example of a configuration of the improved magnetic-flux keeper layer. Drawing 14 (a) is a magnetic-recording medium with the configuration which divided the ferromagnetic layer 132 in the non-magnetic-material layer 133 in the magnetic-flux keeper layer 19 constituted on the substrate 130 first. Elimination after record could be completely controlled by 6 or more lamination with few high Bs number of layerses of the main pole by combining the thin film magnetic head of the above-mentioned example with the magnetic-recording medium made such a configuration, and the magnetic disk drive which carried these was also found by operating to stability. Furthermore, since antiferromagnetism-association arose to ferromagnetic layer 133 up-and-down comrades by choosing the alloy ingredient which mainly contains Ru, Cr, Ir, or Rh as a non-magnetic layer 133 and the stability of the magnetization condition in a magnetic-flux keeper layer improved, even when there were few high Bs number of layerses of the main pole as six layers, elimination after record was able to be controlled completely.

Next, <u>drawing 14</u> (b) inserts the antiferromagnetic substance layer 135 in lamination equivalent to <u>drawing 14</u> (a). The good result was obtained when IrMn, FeMn, PtMn, CrMnPt, NiO, etc. were chosen as an antiferromagnetic substance ingredient. In addition, although <u>drawing 14</u> (a) and (b) considered the ferromagnetic layer 132 as the two-layer configuration, the good result even with the equivalent range of three to five layers was obtained. Moreover, when the thickness of the ferromagnetic layer 132 was 100nm or less, the improvement effect by keeper layer multilayering was seen notably.

[0075]

The magnetic-recording medium which has the magnetic-flux keeper layer in which more than has been improved, and the magnetic disk drive which was excellent in dependability combining the thin film magnetic head which applied this invention were realizable.

[0076]

[Example 2]

In an example 1, although the high Bs layer of the main pole was respectively made into the same thickness in the range (generally about **5%) of dispersion at the time of membrane formation, the further improvement is expectable by considering as the configuration of intentionally different

thickness.

[0077]

Drawing 15 is the sectional view showing the example of such a configuration. Here, 20% of thickness difference is established between the first high Bs layer (base side to odd-numbered high Bs layer) 63, and second high Bs layer (base side to even-numbered high Bs layer) 63', and it is considering as the configuration which carries out the laminating of these by turns. Since the same magnetization condition was always realized by carrying out like this when each high Bs layer carries out static magnetism association in a residual magnetization condition, in order [which it says is 1010 times] to push it as record actuation of several others very much and to always show the same property, it turned out that the stability of a magnetic disk drive of operation improves. [0078]

[Example 3]

The 2nd example of a configuration of that the thickness of the high Bs layer of the main pole differs for every layer was shown in <u>drawing 16</u>. Here, it has composition which made small thickness of the side the closest to a base, and furthest from a base among two or more high Bs layers. It turned out that it is lost that the feeble residual field by these two layers having a quantity Bs layer only in one side is impressed to a medium by carrying out like this, and good record reproducing characteristics are acquired, without spoiling the stability over the long period of time of the bit recorded on the magnetic-recording medium.

[0079]

All the structures of a record component were the structures of <u>drawing 8</u> in the old example. What is described below is the gestalt of the operation which applied this invention to the thin film magnetic head which has structures other than <u>drawing 8</u>. [0080]

[Example 4]

<u>Drawing 17</u> is the perspective view of the record component made the configuration which omits York 14 in <u>drawing 8</u> and connects the pattern of the main pole point 13 to the direct return path 15. Although all combination stated by the above-mentioned example 1 thru/or 3 was carried out as lamination of the main pole point 13, the same result was completely obtained. In addition, in this example, since the process which forms a record component was shortened sharply, it became possible to offer high performance and the thin film magnetic head of high reliance by low cost more.

[0081]

[Example 5]

Drawing 18 is the sectional view of the thin film magnetic head which applied this invention. It has the structure where the main pole taper section 179 contacts by the main pole point 13 and the film surface. The main pole taper section 179 is a configuration on the wedge which the size of the direction of thickness narrow-izes as it approaches the medium opposed face 177, and the ingredient uses the ferromagnetic alloy which mainly contains Co-nickel-Fe which has Bs [lower than the main pole point 13] higher than York 14, and Fe-nickel here.

[0082]

It was expected by making it such a configuration that it increased [record] about 30%, and the high over-writing elimination ratio 35dB or more was obtained also to the magnetic-recording medium by which the coercive force of a recording layer actually exceeds 6kOe(s). Therefore, surface recording density was able to be raised about 30% also by the same magnetic pole width of face.

In addition, although York 14 is joined in respect of the base side of this main pole taper section 179, it is arranging the main pole point 13 and the main pole taper section 179 from York 14 to a base side, and it is clear that a result with York 14 and the main pole point 13 completely same also as a configuration which contacts directly is obtained.

[0084] [Example 6]

<u>Drawing 19</u> is the sectional view of the thin film magnetic head which applied this invention. The main pole point 13 was located in the base side rather than the submagnetic pole 16, and the

auxiliary magnetic pole point 181 is extended towards the main pole point 13 in the medium opposed face 177 from the submagnetic pole 13. It is expected that this submagnetic pole point 181 will make steeper the inclination by the side of trailing of the field generated from the main pole point 13 (a base and opposite side). ****** -- the signal considered to be dependent on record field inclination by having made it the configuration -- resolution improved 15%. Therefore, it became possible to offer the thin film magnetic head of the stability which can realize higher recording density, and high-reliability.

[0085]

In addition, effectiveness of this invention is not reduced in respect of stability and dependability at least as a configuration which removed the submagnetic pole point 181 from the configuration of drawing 19 temporarily.

[0086]

[Example 7]

<u>Drawing 20</u> is an example of data which evaluated the stability of record actuation in the magnetic disk drive which carried the single magnetic pole mold thin film magnetic head which used the multilayer main pole which applied this invention.

[0087]

When overshoot of a record current was set to <u>drawing 20</u> (a) to 130%, the case where it set up to 70% as well as <u>drawing 20</u> (b) was shown. In addition, it is the thing of an index expressed as /(Ip-In) Inx100 using the peak current value Ip indicated to be overshoot to <u>drawing 21</u> with the record current wave form here, and the current value In of a flat part.

[0088]

According to <u>drawing 20</u>, in spite of making the magnetic pole into the multilayer in (a) which made overshoot size, fluctuation of a recording level is remarkable, and it turns out that elimination after record is occurring frequently. In (b) which suppressed overshoot small on the other hand, it turned out that elimination after record has not occurred at all.

Generally, although set up in the circuit system 127 of a magnetic disk drive, since the values of overshoot are the record engine performance in a high frequency, and an index concerned closely, finally they must consider and opt for the engine performance of not only a head but a medium property, or the whole equipment. For this reason, the thin film magnetic head of this invention application which permits the overshoot value of the as large range as possible is indispensable also in order to be compatible in the engine performance and dependability of a magnetic disk drive. [0090]

The output range of fluctuation at the time of changing an overshoot value to <u>drawing 22</u> was shown. This output range of fluctuation expresses extent of elimination after record that point ** was carried out. The example using the thin film magnetic head which has the magnetic pole of a monolayer for reference was also shown in coincidence. As this drawing shows, when the multilayer magnetic pole of this invention is used, in the case of the monolayer in this example, it turns out to always big elimination after record having occurred except for the case of very small overshoot that elimination after record is effectively controlled for overshoot in 100% or less of range. Then, the overshoot dependency of the nonlinear bit shift which is an important index showing the engine performance of a magnetic-recording system, as a result the whole magnetic disk drive was shown in <u>drawing 23</u>. [0091]

It turns out that overshoot is required 50% or more irrespective of whether a magnetic pole is a monolayer or it is a multilayer. Although the threshold of 50% in this case was influenced by the property of the medium engine performance or a record current transmission line, it became clear that this invention is effective in being compatible in control of elimination after record and control of a nonlinear bit shift at least.

[0092]

Since there is close relation to the stability of the overshoot which is the important element which opts for the engine performance of a magnetic disk drive, and record actuation and it is compatible in the engine performance and dependability of equipment from this example, it can be said that application of this invention is indispensable. In addition, although the configurations (a number of

layers, an ingredient, thickness, etc.) of a magnetic pole were changed variously, when it was within the limits of this invention, the almost equivalent result was able to be obtained.

[0093]

[Effect of the Invention]

According to this invention, elimination after record can be controlled effectively, securing a sufficiently big record field also with a narrow track with a magnetic pole width of face [corresponding to the high recording density exceeding 100 Gb/in2] of 200nm or less, and it is possible to supply cheaply high performance and the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of high reliance. Moreover, supply of the magnetic disk drive of high reliance is attained by combining the thin film magnetic head for vertical recording of a vertical-magnetic-recording medium and this invention which has a magnetic-flux keeper layer.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The perspective view showing arrangement of the bit recorded as the magnetic-recording medium which has the typical configuration, especially magnetic-flux keeper layer of vertical magnetic recording, and the thin film magnetic head.

[Drawing 2] The main pole ingredient Bs dependency of the record field distribution by the thin film magnetic head.

[Drawing 3] The record magnetic pole width-of-face dependency of output rate of change.

[Drawing 4] The magnetic pole width-of-face dependency of a residual field.

[Drawing 5] The mimetic diagram of the magnetization condition at the tip of a magnetic pole in the case of being the case where magnetic pole width of face is 300nm (a), and 100nm (b).

[Drawing 6] The **** Fig. of the thin film magnetic-head magnetic pole point which is the first example of this invention.

[Drawing 7] The phase diagram about Bs of a Co-nickel-Fe system the alloy of 3 yuan.

[Drawing 8] The perspective view showing the whole record component structure which is the first example of this invention.

[Drawing 9] The magnetic pole point lamination dependency of a residual field.

[Drawing 10] The magnetic pole point lamination dependency of output rate of change.

Drawing 11] Relative frequency distribution of the output rate of change in each group of the thin film magnetic head from which the lamination of a magnetic pole point differs.

[Drawing 12] The property Fig. showing the relation between the thickness of a hyposaturation flux density layer, and an over-writing elimination ratio.

[Drawing 13] The mimetic diagram of the magnetic disk drive which applied this invention.

[Drawing 14] The sectional view of the magnetic-recording medium which has the improved magnetic-flux keeper layer used in the 1st example of this invention.

[Drawing 15] The sectional view of the magnetic pole point in the 2nd example of this invention.

[Drawing 16] The sectional view of the magnetic pole point in the 3rd example of this invention.

[Drawing 17] The perspective view of the record component in the 4th example of this invention.

[Drawing 18] The sectional view of the thin film magnetic head in the 5th example of this invention.

[Drawing 19] The sectional view of the thin film magnetic head in the 6th example of this invention.

[Drawing 20] The data characteristic Fig. which evaluated the stability of the record actuation in the 7th example.

[Drawing 21] The explanatory view of overshoot.

[Drawing 22] The property Fig. showing the relation of the overshoot value and the output range of fluctuation in an example 7.

[Drawing 23] The property Fig. showing the overshoot dependency of the nonlinear bit shift in an example 7.

[Description of Notations]

11 -- Record component 12 -- Playback component 13 -- Main pole point 14 -- York 15 -- Return path 16 -- Submagnetic pole 17 -- Exiting coil 18 -- Recording layer 19 -- Magnetic-flux keeper layer 20 -- Record magnetization, 55 -- Magnetization of a main pole point 61 -- A base-cum-a slider, 62 -- Substrate film 63 -- Quantity Bs layer 64 -- A low Bs layer thru/or non-magnetic layer 65 -- Cap layer 71 -- Presentation to which Bs becomes more than 2.2T with Co-Fe-nickel the alloy of 3 yuan 91 -- The magnetization in the high Bs layer of a main pole point, 92 -- Residual field 121

-- the thin film magnetic head Carried slider 122 [-- A magnetic disk 125 / -- A spindle motor 126 / The external interface of a magnetic disk drive, 127 / -- Data coding and the Records Department,
128 / -- Data playback] -- A suspension arm, 123 -- A head positioning device, 124 And the decode
section, 129 -- Device control-system circuit 131 -- Substrate layer of a magnetic-recording medium
132 [-- An antiferromagnetism layer, 172 / -- Up shielding of a playback component / 173 -- Lower
shielding of a playback component,] -- The magnetic-flux keeper layer, 133 which were divided -The interlayer who divides a magnetic-flux keeper layer, 135 174 -- Magneto-resistive effect
component 177 -- Medium opposed face of the thin film magnetic head 179 -- Main pole taper
section 181 -- Submagnetic pole point.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

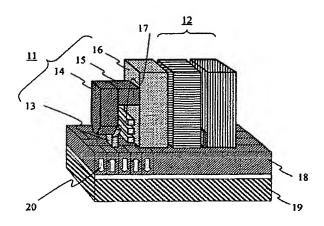
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- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

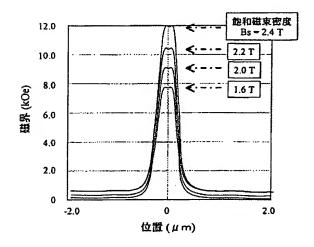
[Drawing 1]

図1

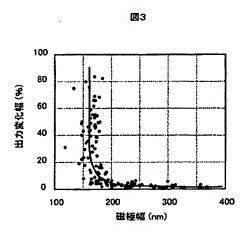


[Drawing 2]

2

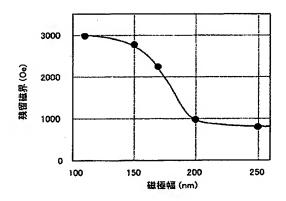


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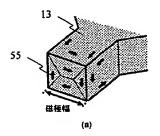


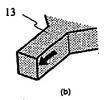
[Drawing 4]

图4



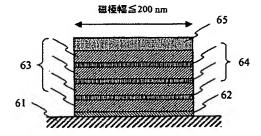
[Drawing 5]



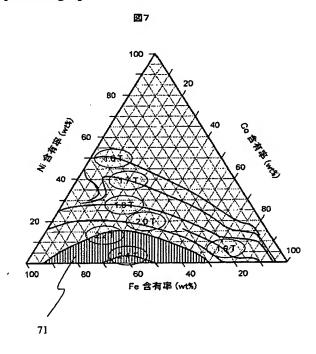


[Drawing 6]

⊠6

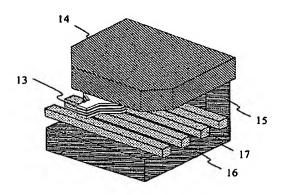


[Drawing 7]

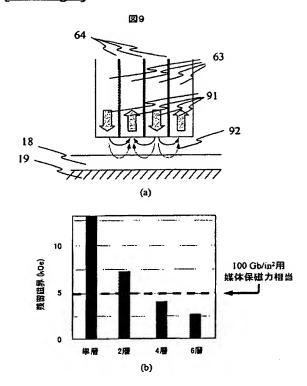


[Drawing 8]

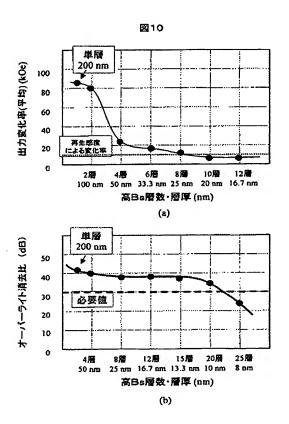




[Drawing 9]

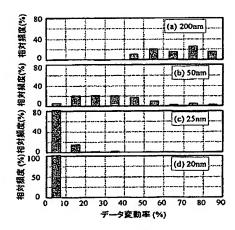


[Drawing 10]



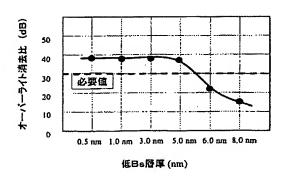
[Drawing 11]

図11



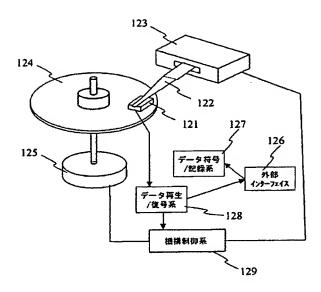
[Drawing 12]



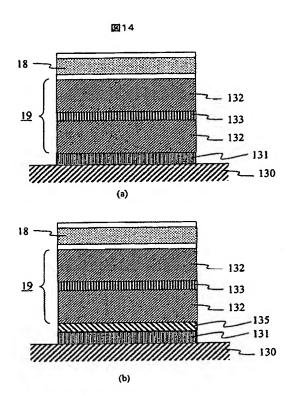


[Drawing 13]

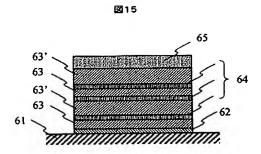
⊠13



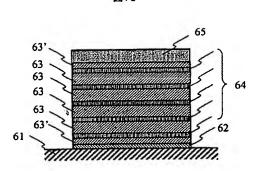
[Drawing 14]



[Drawing 15]

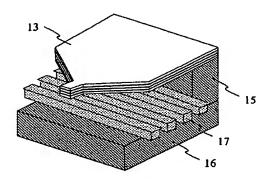


[Drawing 16]



[Drawing 17]

2217



[Drawing 18]

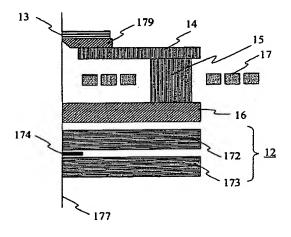
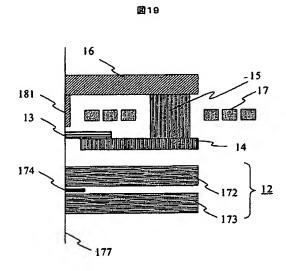
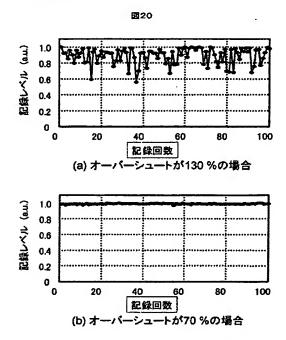


図18

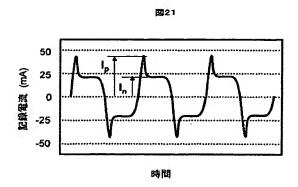
[Drawing 19]



[Drawing 20]

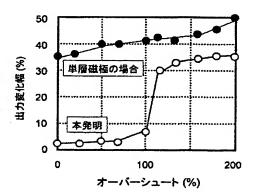


[Drawing 21]



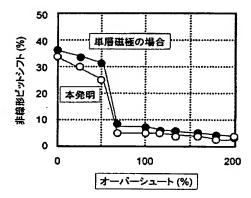
[Drawing 22]

図22



[Drawing 23]

図23



[Translation done.]

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(72)Inventor: KAWATO YOSHIAKI

NAKAMOTO KAZUHIRO HOSHIYA HIROYUKI OKADA YASUYUKI

MOCHIZUKI MASABUMI

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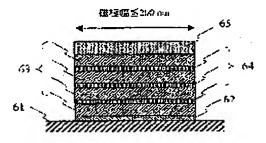
(54) THIN FILM PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC RECORDING HEAD, ITS FABRICATION PROCESS, AND MAGNETIC DISK DRIVE USING SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a thin film perpendicular magnetic recording head which generates a high magnetic recording field exceeding 10kOe while having a narrow main pole coping with a high recording density in excess of 100Gb/in2 and is modified so as to suppress residual magnetic fields occurring immediately after a recording operation.

SOLUTION: The thin film perpendicular magnetic recording head is provided with a main pole, a return path for supplying a magnetic flux to the main pole, and a conductor coil for excitation of the main pole and the return path, and the main pole has a pole width of 200nm or less and has a magnetic multilayer made of a high saturation flux density layer and a low saturation flux density layer, and the low saturation flux density layer has a thickness within 0.5 to 5nm, and the high saturation flux density layer has a thickness of 10 to 50nm, and thus residual magnetization is suppressed and erasing after recording is prevented by adopting a closre magnetic domain structure in the pole.

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(32) 優先日 (33) 優先権主張国	平成15年1月22日 (2003. 1.22) 日本国 (JP)	(74) 代理人	100075096 弁理士 作田 康夫
	,	(72) 発明者	川戸 良昭 東京都国分寺市東恋ケ窪一丁目280番地 株式会社日立製作所中央研究所内
		(72) 発明者	中本 一広 東京都国分寺市東恋ケ窪一丁目280番地 株式会社日立製作所中央研究所内
		(72) 発明者	星屋 裕之 東京都国分寺市東恋ケ窪一丁目280番地 株式会社日立製作所中央研究所内
			最終頁に続く

(54) 【発明の名称】垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド及びその製造方法、ならびにこれを用いた磁気ディスク装置

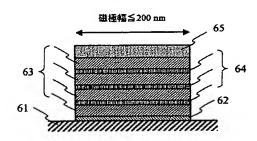
(57)【要約】

【課題】100Gb/in²を超える高い記録密度に対応する狭い主磁極を有しながら10kOeを超える高い記録磁界を発生することが可能で、なおかつ記録動作直後の残留磁界発生を抑制されるよう改良された垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド提供する。

【解決手段】主磁極と前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備え、前記主磁極の磁極幅は200m以下であり、前記主磁極は、高飽和磁束密度層と低飽和磁束密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、低飽和磁束密度層の厚みを0.5mm以上、5mm以下の範囲とし、高飽和磁束密度層の厚さを10mm以上50mm以下とすることにより、磁極が還流磁区構造をとって残留磁化が抑制され、記録後消去が防止される。

【選択図】 図6

図6



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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

主磁極と、前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと、前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備える記録へッドを有する垂直磁気記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、

前記主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、

前記主磁極は、高飽和磁束密度層と低飽和磁東密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、

前記高飽和磁束密度層は、Fe-Co合金を含有し、

前記磁性多層膜では、前記低飽和磁束密度層を介して対向する一対の前記高飽和磁束密度層の磁化の向きが反平行配列をしていることを特徴とする垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項2】

主磁極と、前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと、前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備える記録ヘッドを有する垂直磁気記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、

前記主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、

前記主磁極は、高飽和磁束密度層と低飽和磁束密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、

前記低飽和磁束密度層の厚みが、0.5 nm以上、5 nm以下の範囲であり、

前記高飽和磁束密度層の厚さが、10 nm以上50 nm以下であることを特徴とする垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項3】

前記高飽和磁束密度層の厚さが、10nm以上20nm以下であることを特徴とする、請求項2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項4】

前記高飽和磁東密度層は、Fe-Co合金を含有することを特徴とする請求項2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項5】

前記高飽和磁東密度層が強磁性体層であり、前記低飽和磁東密度層が非磁性層であること を特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項6】

前記磁性多層膜に含まれる前記高飽和磁束密度層の層数は、4層以上であることを特徴と する請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項7】

前記磁性多層膜に含まれる前記高飽和磁東密度層の層数は、10層以上であることを特徴 とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項8】

前記磁性多層膜は、前記主磁極の媒体対向面に対して垂直な平面に平行な方向に積層されていることを特徴とする請求項1及び2に記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項9】

前記高飽和磁束密度層は、一般式($Fe_{70-x}Co_{30+x}$)」 $_{100-y}M$,(但し0 40 $\leq x \leq 20$ 、 $0 \leq y \leq 15$ 、M は、N i,B, T i,N b,A l,A l - O,S i,S i - O もしくはこれらの組み合わせからなる。)で表される合金を含有することを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項10】

前記高飽和磁束密度層の結晶構造は、主に体心立方格子構造を有することを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項11】

前記低飽和磁東密度層の結晶構造は、主に面心立方格子構造を有することを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項12】

前記低飽和磁束密度層は、Ni-Cr, Ni-Fe, Ni-Fe-Cr及びTaのうち少なくとも1種以上を含むことを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項13】

前記磁性多層膜では、前記低飽和磁東密度層を介して向かい合う一対の前記高飽和磁東密度層の膜厚が異なることを特徴とする請求項1及び2に記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド

【請求項14】

前記主磁極の前記高飽和磁束密度層のうち、最も基板から遠い側の層と最も基板に近い側の層の厚さは、それ以外の高飽和磁束密度層よりも薄いことを特徴とする請求項1及び2 10 記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項15】

更に、漏洩磁界の空間分布を抵抗変化ないし電圧変化に変換する磁気抵抗効果型センサを 有する再生ヘッドを備えることを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項16】

前記リターンパスは、前記主磁極に直接磁束を送り込むヨーク部分と、媒体に対向した面を持つ補助磁極の少なくとも2つの部分からなり、いずれも前記高飽和磁束密度層より低い飽和磁束密度を持つ強磁性体からなることを特徴とする請求項1及び2記載の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド。

【請求項17】

主磁極と、前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと、前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備える記録ヘッドを有する垂直磁気記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法において、

基板上に、低飽和磁束密度層とFe-Co合金を含有する高飽和磁束密度層との磁性多層膜をスパッタリングにより堆積する堆積工程と、

イオンミリングによるエッチング工程を含むことを特徴とす垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドの製造方法。

【請求項18】

磁気記録媒体と、垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドと、前記垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドを前記磁 3 気記録媒体上で位置決めする機構と、前記垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドに記録電流および再生電流を流すとともに保存データの符号化および読み出しデータの復号化を行う磁気ディスク装置において、

垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドは、主磁極と前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと、前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備え、前記主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、前記主磁極は、高飽和磁束密度層と低飽和磁束密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、前記低飽和磁束密度層の厚みが0.5nm以上、5nm以下の範囲であり、前記高飽和磁束密度層の厚さが10nm以上50nm以下であり、

前記磁気記録媒体は、書き込まれたデータを一軸磁気異方性により保持する高保磁力の強磁性体からなる記録層と、前記記録素子との相互作用により記録磁界発生に寄与する低保 40 磁力の磁束キーパ層を含むことを特徴とする磁気ディスク装置。

【請求項19】

磁気記録媒体と、垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドと、前記垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドを前記磁気記録媒体上で位置決めする機構と、前記垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドに記録電流および再生電流を流すとともに保存データの符号化および読み出しデータの復号化を行う磁気ディスク装置において、

垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドは、主磁極と前記主磁極に磁東を供給するためのリターンパスと、前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備え、前記主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、前記主磁極は、高飽和磁東密度層と低飽和磁東密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、前記高飽和磁東密度層は、Fe-Co合金を含有し、前記磁性多

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層膜では、前記低飽和磁束密度層を介して対向する一対の前記高飽和磁束密度層の磁化の 向きが反平行配列をし、

前記磁気記録媒体は、書き込まれたデータを一軸磁気異方性により保持する高保磁力の強磁性体からなる記録層と、前記記録素子との相互作用により記録磁界発生に寄与する低保磁力の磁東キーパ層を含むことを特徴とする磁気ディスク装置。

【請求項20】

前記薄膜磁気ヘッドの前記高飽和磁東密度層の膜厚中心の間隔は、記録再生動作時の前記 主磁極と前記キーパ層表面との距離の2倍より小さいことを特徴とする請求項18及び1 9記載の磁気ディスク装置。

【請求項21】

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前記磁気記録媒体の前記磁東キーパ層は、高飽和磁東密度層と低飽和磁東密度層との磁性 多層膜または強磁性層と非磁性層との磁性多層膜または強磁性層と反強磁性層との磁性多 層膜からなることを特徴とする請求項18及び19記載の磁気ディスク装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、高密度磁気記録に対応した狭トラックの場合でも高い記録磁界を発生することができ、なおかつ安定に動作する高信頼の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド及びその製造方法、ならびにこれを用いた磁気ディスク装置に関する。

[0002]

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【従来の技術】

情報処理技術の発達に伴い、様々なメディアのディジタル化が急速に進行している。従来からのパーソナルコンピュータやサーバに加え、家電・オーディオ等においても大量のディジタル情報を貯える必要性が生じており、不揮発性ファイルシステムの中核となる磁気ディスク装置はこれまでにも増して急速な大容量化を求められている。磁気ディスク装置の大容量化とはすなわち、媒体上に記録するビット密度すなわち面記録密度をより高めることを意味する。

[0003]

現在実用化されている磁気ディスク装置における記録方式は一般に面内記録方式と呼ばれる。これは、ディスク基板面と平行な方向に大きな保磁力を持つ強磁性膜を記録媒体とし、この記録媒体を基板面内方向に磁化することで情報を記録する方式である。この場合、面内磁化が180度の角度をなして向き合っている磁化反転部がビットの1に対応する。

[0004]

面記録密度を高めるには、ディスク円周方向のビット密度 (線記録密度)及びディスク半径方向のビット密度 (トラック密度)を同時に増やす必要がある。トラック密度は記録/再生ヘッドの磁極幅形成プロセスや機構系の位置決め精度によって制限されるが、これらは主として技術的な課題にすぎない。これに対し線記録密度の増大は記録媒体が強磁性体微粒子の集合体であるという事実により原理的な制約を受けると考えられている。

[0005]

面内記録方式においては磁化反転を中心にして磁化どうしが向き合っているため、この磁 40 化反転周辺では磁化を減少させる方向に反磁界と呼ばれる大きな内部磁界を生じる。この 反磁界によって磁化反転部には有限の幅を持った遷移領域すなわち磁化が充分な値に達していない領域が形成される。

[0006]

ビット間隔を狭めて行った時降り合う磁化遷移領域が干渉すると、実質的な磁化反転の位置がシフトする等の不都合が起きる。このため磁化遷移領域の幅は少なくともビット間隔より小さくする必要がある。従って線記録密度を高めるには媒体が反磁界に打ち勝って磁化するような構成、具体的には媒体の保磁力を向上するとともに記録磁性膜の厚さを低減して反磁界を抑制することが必要である。このため線記録密度は媒体の構成や磁気特性によって強く制限されることになる。

[0007]

標準的な面内記録方式では、線記録密度とトラック密度の比は約 $5\sim1$ 0程度とすることが望ましいとされている。この条件のもとに100Gb/in² (一平方インチあたり10i1 ビット)の記録密度を実現する場合、円周方向のビット間隔は約25 nmになる。一方、簡単なモデルにより磁化反転幅が25 nm以下になる媒体の必要特性を見積もると、媒体膜厚15 nm以下、保磁力5k Oe (エルステッド)以上が必要条件となる。

しかしながら、面内記録方式の記録素子が発生させることのできる記録磁界は、使用可能な磁極材料に望める最大の飽和磁東密度(以下Bs)である 2. 4 T (テスラ)を前提としても高々 9 k O e 程度が限度と考えられている。このばあい媒体記録層の保磁力が 5 k O e を超えると、媒体を充分に磁化することができるだけの記録磁界の確保が困難になる。また C o 合金系磁性膜では磁性膜の厚さが 1 5 n m 以下になると、実質的な媒体結晶粒子の体積が小さくなるため、個々の粒子の磁気異方性エネルギー(即ち、磁化を一定方向に安定化しようとするエネルギー)に比べて熱エネルギー(即ち、磁化を擾乱するエネルギー)の大きさが無視できなくなる。このため磁化の熱揺らぎが顕著となり、記録磁化の大きさが時間の経過につれて減少する熱減磁の問題が発生する。熱減磁を抑制するためには保磁力を更に増大させるか結晶粒の体積を増大させる必要がある。

[0009]

しかしながら、先述のようにヘッド磁界が制限されているばあい、許容しうる保磁力には上限がある。また、結晶粒の体積増大のために膜厚を増やすことは反磁界の増加による磁 20 化遷移領域の増大即ち可能な線記録密度の低下を意味する。一方、結晶粒体積を面内方向の結晶サイズで確保しようとすると、媒体内磁化分布のランダムネスが大きくなるため、媒体ノイズの増大をまねき充分な信号 S/N比が得られなくなる。このように熱減磁耐性、低ノイズ、十分な記録という条件を満足しつつ面記録密度 100 G b/i n² を超える面内記録を実現するためには原理的な困難が予想される。

[0 0 1 0]

この原理的困難を回避するために提案されたのが、垂直記録方式である。垂直記録方式は 薄膜媒体の磁化を膜面に垂直に形成する方式で、記録原理が従来の面内磁気記録媒体の場 合とは異なる。垂直磁気記録方式は隣接する磁化が向き合わずに逆平行配列となるために 反磁界の影響を受けない。そのため磁化遷移領域を非常に狭くできることが期待され、線 記録密度を高めやすい。また同じ理由から媒体薄膜化への要求が面内記録ほど強くないた め熱減磁に対しても高い耐性を確保できる。

[0011]

このように垂直磁気記録方式は本質的に高密度磁気記録に適した方式として注目され、様々な媒体の材料・構造およびそれらと組み合わせた薄膜磁気ヘッドの構成が提案されている。垂直記録方式には単層の垂直磁化膜を用いる方式と、垂直磁化膜のディスク基板側に 隣接して低保磁力の磁束キーパ層を設ける方式がある。

[0012]

磁東キーパ層を持つ2層垂直磁気記録媒体を用いると、(1)記録層内に発生する反磁界を低減できる(2)単磁極型の記録素子との組み合わせで、面内記録において用いるリングヘッドにくらべてより急峻な分布をもつ大きな記録磁界を発生させることが可能になる、といった利点が考えられる。この技術に関しては、例えば非特許文献1に記述されている。

[0013]

この方式の垂直磁気記録媒体としては、パーマロイやFe系アモルファス合金ないし微細結晶合金などの軟磁性層からなる磁束キーパ層上にCoCr合金からなる垂直磁化膜を設けた媒体などが検討されている。更に近年は、記録層としてCo/PdやCo/Ptなどのいわゆる人口格子膜やSiO₂中にCo系磁性体微粒子を分散させたいわゆるグラニュラ媒体が検討されており、キーパ層としては反強磁性体を用いることで磁区を安定化した積層膜あるいは強磁性層どうしを反強磁性的に結合させた磁性多層膜なども用いられてい 50

る。

[0014]

磁束キーパ層を有する垂直記録用媒体を用いた垂直記録において用いられる記録素子の形 態は一般に単磁極型記録素子と呼ばれる。これは、面内記録におけるいわゆるリング型記 録素子のように 2 つの磁極が非常に薄いギャップ層を介して向かい合うという構成ではな く、図1のように1つの磁極(主磁極)13が媒体に向かって突き出している構造が特徴 である。但し磁路を形成するため、コイル17を間に挟むような配置で副磁極16と呼ば れる磁極が設けられている。

[0015]

この副磁極16の存在によって主磁極13→磁東キーパ層19→副磁極16→ヨーク14 15→主磁極13という磁路が構成され、最適な効率で記録動作を行う事が出来ること が特徴である。主磁極13とキーパ層19の間を流れる磁束は記録層18を横切るような 配置となっているためこの磁束の流れが記録磁界を作り、記録層18中に記録ビット20 が形成される。

[0016]

このような、単磁極型の記録素子と磁東キーパ層との相互作用を利用した垂直記録に特有 の深刻な問題のひとつとして、主磁極の残留磁化の問題がある。これは非特許文献2にお いて指摘された現象である。

[0017]

この現象は"erase-after-write" (記録後消去 20)とよばれ、記録動作直後の残留磁化による直流磁界によって媒体上の信号が消去される 様子が開示されている。実際の磁気ディスク装置中において、ヘッドはディスク上を絶え ず移動している。そのため記録動作でこのような現象が起きてしまうと、ディスク上の非 常に広範囲にわたりデータやサーボ情報を消去してしまう恐れがある。

[0018]

このことは磁気記録再生システムの信頼性という観点で致命的な欠点と考えられている。 本現象を回避する手段として特許文献1に、ヨークの形状を最適化する方法が開示されて いる。この方法によれば、ヨーク部分に生じる残留磁化によって記録後消去が発生するこ とは回避できる。

[0019]

しかしながら、ヨーク部分は寸法・形状の自由度が比較的高いのに対して、狭い記録トラ ック幅を規定する磁極先端部分は記録密度の増大に応じて小型化しなければならないため 、全く異なる手段で残留磁化を抑制する必要がある。そのような手段の一つとして、垂直 記録用の薄膜磁気ヘッドの主磁極材のように1ミクロン以下の薄い膜において磁性多層膜 を用いる方法が知られている。

[0 0 2 0]

特許文献 2 には、垂直記録用単磁極ヘッドの主磁極に多層膜を用いる構成が開示されてい る。また特許文献3、特許文献4、特許文献5には、磁性多層膜における磁区を安定化す るのに最適な材料と層構成が開示されている。しかしながら、これらはいずれも磁性膜の 単磁区化による安定化を目的としており、後述するような磁極が狭小となることからくる 単磁区化により引き起こされる記録後消去を防止する手段としては不適当ないし不充分で ある。更に特許文献6にも、多層膜からなる磁性層を用いた薄膜磁気ヘッドの例が開示さ れている。しかしながらこれは面内記録に用いられるリング型薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて見 られる、再生動作時の磁区構造変化に伴うノイズを抑制するため磁区を固定する技術を開 示したものである。従って記録時の磁極先端部の残留磁化を抑制する手段とは構成も異な り不適当であることは明らかである。

[0021]

また、上記開示ではNi-Fe、Fe-Ni合金、Feのように比較的良好な軟磁気特性 が得られる材料を前提としており、将来の狭トラック化に向けて必要となるFe-Co合 金のような、2.2 Tを超える高BSの材料との組み合わせとしては不適当と考えられる 50

[0022]

【特許文献1】

特開2001-291212号公報

【特許文献 2】

特開2002-324303号公報

【特許文献3】

特開平5-54320号公報

【特許文献4】

特開平6-195636号公報

【特許文献5】

特開平7-135111号公報

【特許文献 6】

特開平3-49008号公報

【非特許文献1】

IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. MAG-20, No. 5, September 1984, pp. 657-662, " Perpendicular Magnetic Recording-Evolution and Future"

【非特許文献2】

IEEE Transactions on Magnetics, Vol. MAG-32, No. 1, January 1996, pp. 97-102, " Challenges in the Practical Implementation of Perpendicular Magnetic Recording "

【非特許文献3】

The 198th. Meeting of The Electrochemica 1 SocietyのMeeting Abstracts, No. 582

[0023]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

100Gb/in²を超える高い記録密度を実現するための垂直磁気記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、5kOe以上の高保磁力の磁気記録媒体にシャープなビットを書き込むため、幅200nm以下の狭い磁極から10kOeを超える強い磁界を発生させる必要がある

[0024]

図2は記録トラック中心において単磁極型記録素子が発生する記録磁界分布を3次元有限要素法により求めた計算結果である。磁極幅は140Gb/in²で必要と考えられる150nmとした。4本の曲線はそれぞれBsが2.4T、2.2T、2.0T、1.6Tの場合に対応している。

[0025]

この結果から、100Gb/in²を超える高い記録密度に対応した狭トラックの記録素子で10k0eを超える記録磁界を発生させるためには2.2T以上の高いBsをもつFe-Coを主とした強磁性合金を磁極先端部に用いるのは必須であることがわかる。

[0026]

図3は、このような高Bs材料を用いて記録磁極幅の異なる多数の垂直記録用薄膜磁気へッドを作製し、100回の記録再生動作を繰り返したときの出力変化を記録後消去の程度の指標として評価した結果である。縦軸は上記出力変化を、100回を通しての平均出力で規格化した出力変化率を、横軸は各ヘッドの磁極幅を現している。各ヘッド間で異なるのは磁極幅のみであり、他のパラメータは一定にしてある。

[0027]

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この結果から明らかなのは、磁極幅が200nm以上のヘッドではほとんど記録後消去が 発生しておらず、200nmを境とした狭トラック側で記録後消去の程度が急激に増大す ることである。なお、磁極幅200nm以上で見られる10%未満の出力変化はほとんど が再生素子自身の感度の変動であることを確認済みである。

[0028]

従来、記録後消去は単磁極型記録素子と媒体側のキーパ層との組み合わせによる高い記録 効率に起因すると考えられてきた。即ち、通常磁極の媒体対向側表面では反磁界が生じる ために記録素子単独では残留磁化が発生しにくいが、磁東キーパ層が存在することで磁極 内の反磁界が軽減され、残留磁化が生じ易くなるというメカニズムである。

[0029]

これにたいし図2の結果では、明らかに記録効率が低下する狭トラック側で頻度が増大し ている。従ってこのときの記録後消去現象は上記引用例で開示されている記録後消去とは 異なるモードであり、記録素子内で起きている物理現象としては全く異なるものであるこ とがわかる。

[0030]

強磁性体の磁化はスピンと呼ばれる微小な磁気モーメントの集合体と考えることができる 。これらスピンは交換結合という相互作用によってモーメントのベクトルの向きが一方向 に揃うよう常に相互作用している。しかし、有限の大きさに加工された強磁性体において は、外周部に発生する磁極により静磁気的なエネルギーが増大してしまうのを防ぐため、 各々の内部でのみ磁化が一様である磁区とよばれる小さな領域に分かれることが知られて 20 いる。

[0031]

このとき異なる磁区の磁化は必ずしも同じ方向を向く必要は無く、全体として磁化が閉じ た構造になるような配置をとる。この磁区の境界である磁壁は有限な幅をもっている。そ の大きさは静磁気的なエネルギーと、隣り合うスピンがそろわないことによる交換結合エ ネルギーの競合で決まるため、磁性体の種類や形態により異なるが、よく知られているF e. Coなどを主とした強磁性体では数十から数百nmのオーダーになる。従って、磁性 体のスケールが数百nm以下に小さくなったばあい、その内部で磁壁を作ることができず 逆に単一の磁区となる(単磁区化する)傾向にある。

[0 0 3 2]

図4は磁極先端部の磁化状態をシミュレーションにより求め、残留磁化を計算した結果で ある。縦軸は残留磁化による漏洩磁界を表しており横軸は磁極幅である。この結果からも 、磁極幅を200mm以下とすることにより残留磁界が急激に増大することがわかる。

[0033]

図5は上記シミュレーションで求められた磁極先端部の磁化状態の模式図である。図中の 矢印55は磁化の方向を表している。磁極幅が300nmと広い磁極51 (a) の場合、 磁化はいわゆる還流磁区構造をとっているが、磁極幅が100nmと狭い磁極52(b) ではほぼ単磁区であり、そのために大きな残留磁界が発生していると理解される。

[0034]

実際、磁極幅300mmと120mmの記録素子の媒体対向面での磁化状態をスピン偏極 40 走査電子顕微鏡(スピンSEM)で観察すると、やはり磁極幅が300nmと広い場合に は磁化がさまざまな方向を向いた多くの磁区に分かれているのに対し、磁極幅が120n mと小さい場合にはほとんど単磁区化していることがわかった。これらの結果から、図3 において観測された磁極幅200nm以下での記録後消去の急激な増加は、主磁極先端部 の単磁区化によるものと結論づけられる。

[0035]

このように、小さいサイズの磁極では、磁化が一様化する傾向が強いため残留磁化が発生 しやすく、装置動作中に記録後消去が多発する危険性がある。加えて、上記Fe-Co合 金のような高Bsの材料はNia。Fez。などの典型的な軟磁性材料に比較して一般に 軟磁気特性が劣ること、つまり結晶磁気異方性の分散により磁化曲線に大きなヒステリシ 50

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スがしばしば現れることや、正で大きな磁歪定数を有する材料であることも残留磁化ひいては記録後消去を誘発する要因となりうる。これは、軟磁性体のヒステリシスが大きいと励磁がないときの残留磁化が大きいということを意味し、一方薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて磁 歪定数が正の材料は異方的な応力の効果で媒体対向面に垂直な方向に誘起された磁気異方性を持つことが知られているからである(一般に逆磁歪効果とよばれる。例として非特許 文献 3 参照)。

[0036]

そのため、元々主磁極先端部が四角柱状の細長い形状であることにより磁化が長軸方向を向きやすい(形状磁気異方性)のに加え、媒体対向面に垂直な方向の結晶磁気異方性が強くなり、先述した単磁区化の効果とも相まって、磁極先端部分の残留磁化に起因する記録 10後消去はより起こりやすくなることが懸念される。従ってたとえ媒体対向面に垂直な方向の残留磁化が発生しても、磁気記録媒体には実質的に残留磁界が印加されないような構成が必要とされる。

[0037]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明者等は、垂直磁気記録薄膜磁気ヘッドの記録ヘッドにおいて、単磁区化の原因である磁性体内の交換相互作用を有効に切断できる磁性多層膜の層構成ならびに材料の組み合わせを最適化することにより、非常に小さいサイズの磁極においても磁性体が還流磁区構造をとって残留磁化が抑制されることを見出した。

[0038]

即ち、上述の問題を解決するために、本発明に係る垂直磁気記録薄膜磁気ヘッド及び磁気ディスク装置は、主磁極と前記主磁極に磁束を供給するためのリターンパスと前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コイルとを備える記録ヘッドを有する垂直磁気記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドにおいて、前記主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、前記高飽和磁束密度層はFe-Co合金を含有し、前記磁性多層膜では、前記低飽和磁束密度層を介して対向する一対の前記高飽和磁束密度層の磁化の向きが反平行配列をしていることを特徴とする。なお、ここで低飽和磁束密度とはいわゆる非磁性も含む概念であることを注意しておく。

[0039]

また、前記主磁極は、高飽和磁束密度層と低飽和磁束密度層との磁性多層膜を有し、前記低飽和磁束密度層の厚みが0.5 nm以上、5 nm以下の範囲であり、前記高飽和磁束密度層の厚さが10 nm以上50 nm以下であることが好ましい。

[0040]

発明によれば、主磁極に含まれる磁性多層膜が還流磁区構造をとって残留磁化が抑制されるので、記録後消去が防止された垂直磁気記録薄膜磁気ヘッド及び磁気ディスク装置を提供できる。

[0041]

【発明の実施の形態】

本発明を適用した垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドは、少なくとも主磁極と前記主磁極に磁東を供給するためのリターンパスと前記主磁極及び前記リターンパスを励磁するための導体コ 40 イルとを備える。そして、主磁極の磁極幅は200nm以下であり、主磁極は、高飽和磁東密度層(高Bs層)と低飽和磁東密度層(低Bs層)との磁性多層膜を有し、高飽和磁東密度層は、Fe-Co合金を含有することを特徴とする。

[0042]

そして、低飽和磁束密度層の厚みが 0.5 nm以上、5 nm以下の範囲であり、高飽和磁 東密度層の厚さが 10 nm以上 50 nm以下と制御することにより、磁性多層膜では、前 記低飽和磁束密度層を介して対向する一対の前記高飽和磁束密度層の磁化の向きが反平行 配列をしたものとなる。

[0043]

高Bs層の層数は4層以上であることが望ましく、各高Bs層の層厚は一定でない構成と ぷ

するとより効果的である。高Bs層の層数は10層以上とすればより完全な効果が得られる。

[0044]

高Bs層には、10パーセント以下の添加元素を添加することでより軟磁気特性を向上させた強磁性体を用いることができる。このとき前記高Bs層は体心立方格子構造を有しているならば、2.2 T以上の高いBsとより良好な軟磁気特性を両立させることが可能となる。

[0045]

なお、高Bs層及び低Bs層からなる磁性多層膜は、主磁極の媒体対向面に対して垂直な 平面に平行な方向に積層されたものである。

[0046]

また、やはり軟磁気特性の観点から前記低Bs層ないし非磁性層のBsは2.2 T未満であって、結晶構造としては面心立方格子構造を有することが望ましく、材料としてはNi-Cr, Ni-Fe, Ni-Fe-Cr, Ta等が好適である。

[0047]

前記主磁極は、高保磁力の磁気記録媒体を十分磁化できるための高い記録磁界を発生する必要があるため、磁性多層膜の膜厚構成としては前記低Bs層ないし非磁性層が5nm以下であるか、前記高Bs層が50nm以下であるか、またはこの両者の組み合わせであることが望ましい。更に前記高Bs層が20nm以下であるならば、より完全な効果が得られる。

[0048]

上記のような磁性多層膜からなる主磁極を形成する手段としては、スパッタリングによる 堆積工程とイオンミリングによるエッチング工程の組み合わせが最適である。

[0049]

前記記録素子のリターンパスは、Bsが2.2T未満の小さい材料からなる単層もしくは 多層の軟磁性膜を用いることで、最適な効率で安定な記録動作を実現することが可能であ る。

[0050]

以上のような構成を単独でまたは複数の組み合わせで適用することにより、残留磁化がほとんど発生しない高信頼の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドを、安価に供給することが可能とな 30 る。

[0051]

またこのような薄膜磁気ヘッドを、磁東キーパ層を備えた磁気記録媒体と組み合わせることで、大容量・高性能かつ安価な磁気ディスク装置の提供が実現可能となる。その際、磁東キーパ層を多層の構成にすると記録素子主磁極の残留磁化を抑制する効果があるため、装置の信頼性をより高めることができる。

[0052]

なお、媒体記録層の磁気異方性や記録磁界に意図的に面内方向の成分を付与することで、 更に到達記録密度を向上させる試みが近年活発に行われている。しかしながらこのような 方式においても、記録磁界は依然として面内成分より垂直成分が支配的であるため、通常 40 は垂直記録方式に分類されている。また、副磁極などの形態を工夫することで記録磁界に 面内磁界成分を加えたり、記録磁界勾配を改善した構造の記録素子も検討されているが、 主磁極の媒体対向面側から出る磁界で媒体を磁化するという基本的な機能は変わらないの で、これらも垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドといってよい。従って本発明はこれらの磁気記録 系ないし記録素子に対して適用しても有効である。

[0053]

以下、本発明を適用した垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッド及び磁気ディスク装置について、図面を参照して詳細に説明する。

[0054]

本発明の主磁極を構成する磁性多層膜(磁性多層膜)は高周波マグネトロンスパッタリン 50

グ装置により以下のように作製した. Ar圧1から6ミリトールの雰囲気中にて、セラミ ックス基板に前もって必要な構造体を形成した基体に磁極を構成する材料を順次堆積して 作製した。スパッタリングターゲットとしてはFe-Co.Ni-Cr.Ni-Fe-C r, Ta、Al, Al-O, Si, Si-Oを用いた。積層膜は, 各ターゲットを配置し たカソードに各々高周波電力を印加して装置内にプラズマを発生させておき、各カソード に配置されたシャッターを一つずつ開閉して順次各層を形成した。

[0055]

膜形成時には永久磁石を用いて基板面に平行に磁界を印加し,一軸結晶磁気異方性を付与 した。基体上の素子の形成はフォトレジストを露光および現像する工程とイオンミリング 工程を含む一連のプロセスよってパターニングした。最終的には基体をスライダーに機械 10 加工し、ステンレス製のサスペンションと組み合わせて磁気ディスク装置に搭載した。

[0056]

「実施例1]

図6は、本発明の第一の実施例に用いた磁性多層膜の構成を示す断面図である。基体61 上に、下地膜62を介して高Bs層63と非磁性層64が交互に堆積され、最後に保護層 65により被覆されている。高Bs層63は体心立方格子構造をもつFeっ。Co。。で あり、下地膜62及び非磁性層64はいずれも面心立方格子構造をもつNi。。Cr2。 である(膜厚3nm)。なお、図6は、媒体対向面方向からみた磁性多層膜を表すもので ある。

[0057]

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高Bs層63の膜厚は合計で200nmとなるようにしてあるので図6の例では1層あた り25nmである。また低Bs層はNi-Cr合金であり膜厚は3nmとした。磁化曲線 を測定したところ、保磁力は磁化容易軸方向、磁化困難軸方向ともに40e未満、異方性 磁界Hkは100e以下、磁歪定数は+5×10-6と正で大きな値であった。高Bs層 63のBsは2.4であり、図7に示したFe-Co-Ni3元合金の相図から予測され るBsと一致している。

[0058]

なお、本実施例を含めて以下に述べる全ての実施例において高Bs層63のBsは2.2 T以上であるから、Fe-Co-Ni合金の場合図7の相図上で2.2 Tの境界で囲まれ た部分71の組成であればよい。一方 (Fe Co,) 100-, M, (但しMはB、T 30 i、Nb, Al, Al-O, Si, Si-Oであり $0 \le \gamma \le 15$) で表される組成の場合 、添加物Mも含めた3元合金としてのBsが2.2T以上であるためにはFe $_{a}$ Co $_{a}$ が 図7において2.4Tの境界で囲まれた部分に相当する組成であることが望ましい。

[0059]

また図6においては高Bs層63が4層の例を示しているが、我々はここで層数を1から 25層まで変化させたヘッドを作製した。

[0060]

これらの磁性多層膜から、(1)レジスト塗布・ベーク工程(2)露光工程(3)現像工 程(4)イオンミリング工程、を含むウエファプロセスおよびスライダ加工プロセスを経 て形成された薄膜磁気ヘッドを示したのが図8である。ここでは主磁極13の媒体対向面 40 での磁極幅は150nmとしてあるが、200nm以下の磁極幅であれば全く同様の結果 が得られることがわかっている。ヨーク14、リターンパス15、および副磁極16はい ずれもはNi-Fe合金を主とした強磁性材料からなるが、Ni組成を80%以上として いるのでBsは1T以下であり、磁歪定数は負の値を示した。このように負磁歪材料を用 いる事で、先述した逆磁歪効果によりヨーク部14・リターンパス15・副磁極16の磁 化は媒体対向面と平行な方向に安定化する傾向を有し、磁極先端部以外での磁化状態に起 因する残留磁界や不安定性などの問題を回避する事が可能となった。

 $[0\ 0\ 6\ 1]$

ここでは再生素子は省略してあるが、以下のすべての実施例も含め、面内電流型巨大磁気 抵抗効果 (СІР-GMR) 素子、垂直電流型巨大磁気抵抗 (СРР-GMR) 素子、ト 50

ンネル磁気抵抗(TMRもしくはMTJ)素子を含むあらゆる原理・構造の再生素子と組み合わせることが可能である。

[0062]

図9は、ヘッドを作製するのに先立ち、最適な層構成を求めるため行った計算結果を示している。先述したように、2.2 Tを超える高Bs材料は通常磁歪定数が正であるため、逆磁歪効果により磁化が媒体対向面を向きやすくなる傾向を有している。そのため膜構成を設計するに当たっては、各高Bs層63の磁化101が媒体対向面を向いても残留磁界102が十分低くなるようにしなければならない。

[0063]

多層化したときの利点は図9 (a) にあるように各高Bs層の磁化101が反平行配列をすることである。そのため残留磁界102は磁極の側で還流することにより媒体に印加されにくくなる。図9 (b) はこの反平行配列を前提として残留磁界の層数依存性を計算した結果である。図中に示したようにこの磁界が媒体保磁力より小さくなければならないことを考えると、層数は少なくとも4層以上必要であることがわかる。

[0064]

こうして作製した垂直記録用ヘッドの特性評価した結果を図10に示した。図10(a)は出力変化率の層構成依存性。図10(b)はオーバーライト消去比の層構成依存性である。図9の計算結果を裏付けるように、出力変化率は4層以上で大幅に改善されていることがわかる。さらに、10層以上では出力変化率が10%以下で一定となっている。10%以下の出力変動は先述したように再生素子自身の感度の変動であることから、10層以 20上では記録後消去がほぼ完全に抑止されたと考えられる。

[0065]

図1.1には各層数のヘッドのグループについて出力変化率の相対頻度分布をしめしたが、確かに10層ではすべてのヘッドが10%以下の出力変化率になっていることが確認できる。一方、図10(b)を見ると、オーバーライト消去比は20層以上で劣化し始め、25層では一般に必要とされる30dBを下回ってしまうという結果が得られた。これは、層数を増やしすぎると磁極全体で非磁性層の占める体積率が増大し、記録磁界の低下を招くためである。

[0066]

本実施例の結果から、高Bs層の層数は4層以上必要であり、10層以上ではより完全な ³⁰ 効果が得られることがわかった。これは各高Bs層の膜厚が50nm以下更に望ましくは 20nm以下であることに相当する。一方記録性能の面から層数は20層以下、膜厚は10nm以上必要である。

[0067]

なお、高Bs層を分離するための低Bs層である非磁性層63および下地層62としては、少なくとも高Bs層のBsより小さいことすなわち2.2未満、望ましくは結晶磁気磁気異方性などの小さい2.0T以下の材料であることが必要である。ここでは一般には室温で非磁性とされるNi-Cr合金を用いたが、Ni-Fe などの磁性元素が入った低Bs材料やTa、Ni-Fe-Cr などの非磁性材料が含まれる場合でも、結晶構造が面心立方構造であれば同等の結果を得ることができた。また下地層62と中間層63が同じ材 40料からなる場合も異なる材料からなる場合も、上記の材料群から選択した場合には同じように良好な結果が得られている。

[0068]

低Bs層の膜厚に関してもさまざまな構成で検討を行った。まず膜の平坦性による各高Bs間の強磁性的結合(一般にオレンジピール効果と呼ばれる)を防止するためには0.5nm以上必要であることがわかった。次に上限についてであるが、図12は低Bs層63の膜厚を0.5nmから10nmの範囲で変化させた場合のオーバーライト消去比を実測した結果を示している。この結果から、低Bs層63が5nmを超える場合には記録特性が大幅に劣化していることがわかる。これは主磁極に占める低Bs層の割合が増大したため実質的に全体のBsが低下したのと同じ効果を生じ、記録磁界が低下したためと考えら

れる。

[0069]

図13は、上記第一の実施例で作製したヘッドと、磁束キーパ層を有する磁気記録媒体を搭載した磁気ディスク装置の概念図を示している。薄膜磁気ヘッドを形成したスライダ121はサスペンションアーム122により支持され、位置決め機構123によりディスク124上で位置決めされて所望の場所で情報の読み書きを行う。ディスク124はスピンドルモータ125により回転が制御されている。ディスク124上にはあらかじめ位置を示す信号(サーボ信号)が記録されており、ヘッドが読み取ったサーボ信号を機構制御回路130で処理したうえで位置決め機構123にフィードバックすることで閉ループ制御が行われている。

[0070]

外部インターフェイス127を通して入ってきたユーザデータは、データ符号・記録回路 128で磁気記録系に好適な方法で符号化・整形されて記録電流波形に変換され、記録素 子を励磁することで媒体にビットが書き込まれる。逆に書き込まれたビットから出る漏洩 磁界は再生素子がセンスすることで電気的信号に変換され、データ再生・復号回路129 で磁気記録系に好適な方法で波形整形・復号化処理を経てユーザデータが再現される。こ のように動作する磁気ディスク装置に本発明を適用した薄膜磁気ヘッドを用いた結果、記 録後消去等による異常を起こすことなく安定した動作が実現できた。これにより大容量か つ高信頼性の磁気ディスク装置を安価に提供することができるようになった。

[0071]

なお、膜厚中心間の距離をDとし、装置動作時の主磁極先端部と磁東キーパ層の距離をHとした場合、残留磁化状態において主磁極の高Bs層間で磁束が有効に還流するようにD≦2×Hとすれば、長期信頼性において特に優れていることがわかった。

[0072]

これまで用いた、磁東キーパ層を有する磁気記録媒体において、磁東キーパ層の構成は図1に示したように単層の強磁性体層からなるものであったが、磁気ディスク装置のより安定な動作と高い信頼性を実現するため、磁東キーパ層を多層構成とした磁気記録媒体と本発明を適用した薄膜磁気ヘッドを組み合わせて磁気ディスク装置を構成することは有効である。

[0073]

図14は改善された磁東キーパ層の構成例を示す断面図である。まず図14(a)は、基板130上に構成された磁東キーパ層<u>19</u>において強磁性体層132を非磁性体層133で分割した構成を持つ磁気記録媒体である。このような構成にした磁気記録媒体と、上記実施例の薄膜磁気ヘッドを組み合わせることで、主磁極の高Bs層数が少ない6層構成以上で記録後消去を完全に抑制することができ、これらを搭載した磁気ディスク装置も安定に動作することがわかった。更に非磁性層133としてRu、Cr、Ir、Rhのいずれかを主として含む合金材料を選択することで上下の強磁性層133同士に反強磁性的な結合が生じ、磁東キーパ層内の磁化状態の安定性が向上したため、主磁極の高Bs層数が6層と少ない場合でも記録後消去を完全に抑制することができた。

[0074]

次に図14(b)は図14(a)と同等の層構成に反強磁性体層135を挿入したものである。反強磁性体材料としてはIrMn,FeMn,PtMn,CrMnPt,NiOなどを選択した場合に良好な結果が得られた。なお図14(a)(b)ともに強磁性体層132は2層の構成としたが、3層から5層の範囲でも同等の良好な結果が得られた。また強磁性体層132の膜厚が100nm以下の場合にキーパ層多層化による改善効果が顕著に見られた。

[0075]

以上の改善された磁束キーパ層を有する磁気記録媒体と、本発明を適用した薄膜磁気ヘッドを組み合わせて、信頼性に優れた磁気ディスク装置が実現できた。

[0076]

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「実施例2]

実施例1においては、主磁極の高Bs層は成膜時のばらつきの範囲 (一般的には±5%程 度)で各々同じ膜厚としていたが、意図的に異なる膜厚の構成とすることで更なる改善が 期待できる。

[0077]

図15はこのような構成の実施例を示す断面図である。ここでは第一の高Bs層 (基体側 から奇数番目の高Bs層)63と第二の高Bs層(基体側から偶数番目の高Bs層)63 'との間に20%の膜厚差を設け、これらを交互に積層する構成としている。こうするこ とで、残留磁化状態において各高Bs層が静磁気結合するにあたり常に同一の磁化状態が 実現されるため、1010回という非常に他数回の記録動作とおして常に同一の特性を示 10 すため、磁気ディスク装置の動作安定性が向上することがわかった。

[0078]

「実施例3]

主磁極の高Bs層の膜厚が層ごとに異なる構成の第2の例を図16に示した。ここでは複 数の高Bs層のうち最も基体に近い側と最も基体から遠い側の層厚を小さくした構成とな っている。こうすることで、この2つの層が片側にしか高Bs層を持たないことによる微 弱な残留磁界が媒体に印加されることがなくなり、磁気記録媒体に記録されたビットの長 期にわたる安定性を損なうことなく良好な記録再生特性が得られることがわかった。

[0079]

これまでの実施例で記録素子の構造は全て図8の構造であった。以下に述べるのは図8以 20 外の構造を有する薄膜磁気ヘッドに本発明を適用した実施の形態である。

[0080]

「実施例4]

図17は、図8におけるヨーク14を省略して主磁極先端部13のパターンを直接リター ンパス15に接続する構成にした記録素子の斜視図である。主磁極先端部13の層構成と して、上記実施例1ないし3で述べた全ての組み合わせを実施したが、まったく同様の結 果が得られた。これに加えて本実施例では記録素子を形成する工程が大幅に短縮するため 、より低コストで高性能かつ高信頼の薄膜磁気ヘッドを提供することが可能となった。

[0081]

「実施例5]

図18は本発明を適用した薄膜磁気ヘッドの断面図である。主磁極テーパ部179が主磁 極先端部13と膜面で接触する構造になっている。ここで主磁極テーパ部179は、媒体 対向面177に近づくに従い膜厚方向のサイズが狭小化するくさび上の形状であり、材料 は主磁極先端部13よりも低くヨーク14よりも高いBsを有するCo-Ni-FeやF e-Niを主として含む強磁性合金を用いている。

[0082]

このような構成にすることで記録磁界は約30%増加することが見込まれ、実際記録層の 保磁力が6k0eを超える磁気記録媒体に対しても35dB以上の高いオーバーライト消 去比が得られた。従って同じ磁極幅でも面記録密度を約30%向上させることができた。

[0083]

なお、ヨーク14はこの主磁極テーパ部179の基体側の面で接合しているが、主磁極先 端部13および主磁極テーパ部179をヨーク14より基体側に配置することで、ヨーク 14と主磁極先端部13が直接接触する構成としても全く同様の結果が得られることは明 らかである。

[0084]

[実施例6]

図19は本発明を適用した薄膜磁気ヘッドの断面図である。主磁極先端部13は副磁極1 6よりも基体側に位置し、補助磁極先端部181が媒体対向面177において副磁極13 から主磁極先端部13に向けて伸びている。この副磁極先端部181が、主磁極先端部1 3から発生する磁界のトレーリング側(基体と反対側)での勾配をより急峻にすることが 50

期待される。実この構成にしたことによって、記録磁界勾配に依存すると考えられている信号分解能は15%向上した。そのため、より高い記録密度を実現することのできる安定かつ高信頼性の薄膜磁気ヘッドを提供することが可能となった。

[0085]

なお、仮に図19の構成から副磁極先端部181を取り除いた構成としても、少なくとも 安定性・信頼性の点で本発明の効果を減ずるものではない。

[0086]

[実施例7]

図20は本発明を適用した多層の主磁極を用いた単磁極型薄膜磁気ヘッドを搭載した磁気ディスク装置において記録動作の安定性を評価したデータの一例である。

[0087]

[0088]

図20によればオーバーシュートを大にした(a)の場合、磁極を多層としているにもかかわらず記録レベルの変動が著しく、記録後消去が多発していることがわかる。一方オーバーシュートを小さく抑えた(b)の場合、記録後消去が全く発生していないことがわかった。

[0089]

一般にオーバーシュートの値は磁気ディスク装置の回路系127において設定されるものであるが、高い周波数における記録性能と密接に関わる指標であるため最終的にはヘッドのみならず媒体特性や装置全体の性能を加味して決めなければならない。このためなるべく広い範囲のオーバーシュート値を許容する本発明適用の薄膜磁気ヘッドは磁気ディスク装置の性能と信頼性を両立するためにも必須である。

[0090]

図22にはオーバーシュート値を変化させた場合の出力変動幅を示した。先述したようにこの出力変動幅は記録後消去の程度を表している。参考のため単層の磁極を有する薄膜磁気ヘッドを用いた例も同時に示した。この図からわかるように、本実施例における単層の30場合は非常に小さいオーバーシュートの場合を除いて常に大きな記録後消去が発生しているのに対し、本発明の多層磁極を用いた場合はオーバーシュートが100%以下の範囲で記録後消去が有効に抑制されていることがわかる。続いて図23には磁気記録系ひいては磁気ディスク装置全体の性能を表す重要な指標である非線形ビットシフトのオーバーシュート依存性を示した。

[0091]

磁極が単層であるか多層であるかにかかわらずオーバーシュートは50%以上必要である事がわかる。この場合の50%という閾値は媒体性能や記録電流伝送路の特性により左右されるが、少なくとも記録後消去の抑制と非線形ビットシフトの抑制を両立するのに本発明は有効である事が明らかとなった。

[0092]

本実施例から、磁気ディスク装置の性能を決定する重要な要素であるオーバーシュートと 記録動作の安定性には密接な関係があり、装置の性能と信頼性を両立するために本発明の 適用は必須と言える。なお、磁極の構成(層数・材料・層厚など)を様々に変化させてみ たが、本発明の範囲内であれば殆ど同等の結果を得ることができた。

[0093]

【発明の効果】

本発明によれば、100Gb/in²を超える高い記録密度に対応した磁極幅200nm 以下の狭トラックでも十分大きな記録磁界を確保しつつ記録後消去を有効に抑制すること ができ、高性能かつ高信頼の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドを安価に供給することが可能であ 50

る。また磁束キーパ層を有する垂直磁気記録媒体と本発明の垂直記録用薄膜磁気ヘッドを組み合わせることで高信頼の磁気ディスク装置の供給が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

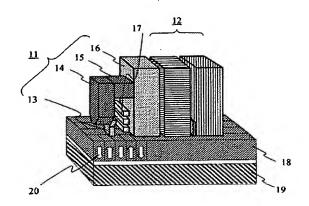
- 【図1】垂直磁気記録方式の典型的な構成とくに磁東キーパ層を有する磁気記録媒体と薄膜磁気ヘッドと記録されたビットの配置をあらわす斜視図。
- 【図2】薄膜磁気ヘッドによる記録磁界分布の、主磁極材料Bs依存性。
- 【図3】出力変化率の記録磁極幅依存性。
- 【図4】残留磁界の磁極幅依存性。
- 【図5】磁極幅が300nm(a)の場合と100nm(b)の場合の磁極先端の磁化状態の模式図。
- 【図6】本発明の第一の実施例である薄膜磁気ヘッド磁極先端部の残面図。
- 【図7】 Co-Ni-Fe系3元合金のBsについての相図。
- 【図8】本発明の第一の実施例である記録素子の全体構造をあらわす斜視図。
- 【図9】残留磁界の磁極先端部層構成依存性。
- 【図10】出力変化率の磁極先端部層構成依存性。
- 【図11】磁極先端部の層構成が異なる薄膜磁気ヘッドの各グループにおける出力変化率の相対頻度分布。
- 【図12】低飽和磁束密度層の厚みとオーバーライト消去比との関係を示す特性図。
- 【図13】本発明を適用した磁気ディスク装置の模式図。
- 【図14】本発明の第1の実施例において用いられた、改良された磁東キーパ層を有する 20 磁気記録媒体の断面図。
- 【図15】本発明の第2の実施例における磁極先端部の断面図。
- 【図16】 本発明の第3の実施例における磁極先端部の断面図。
- 【図17】本発明の第4の実施例における記録素子の斜視図。
- 【図18】本発明の第5の実施例における薄膜磁気ヘッドの断面図。
- 【図19】本発明の第6の実施例における薄膜磁気ヘッドの断面図。
- 【図20】第7の実施例における記録動作の安定性を評価したデータ特性図。
- 【図21】オーバーシュートの説明図。
- 【図22】実施例7におけるオーバーシュート値と出力変動幅との関係を示す特性図。
- 【図23】実施例7における非線形ビットシフトのオーバーシュート依存性を示す特性図 30

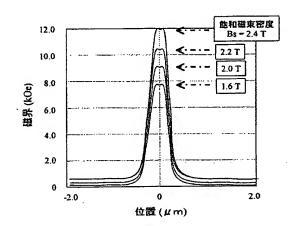
【符号の説明】

11…記錄素子, 12…再生素子, 13…主磁極先端部, 14…ヨーク, リターンパス, 16…副磁極, 17…励磁コイル, 18…記録層, 19…磁東キ 20…記録磁化, 55…主磁極先端部の磁化, 61…基体兼スライダ, 63…高Bs層. 64…低Bs層ないし非磁性層. 65…キャップ 6 2 …下地膜. 層, 71…CoーFeーNi3元合金でBsが2.2T以上となる組成, 9 1 …主磁 極先端部の高Bs層内の磁化。 92…残留磁界, 121…薄膜磁気ヘッドを搭載した スライダ. 122…サスペンションアーム.123…ヘッド位置決め機構.124…磁 気ディスク、125…スピンドルモータ、126…磁気ディスク装置の外部インタフェイ ス、127…データ符号化及び記録部、128…データ再生及び復号部、129…機構制 御系回路, 131…磁気記録媒体の下地層, 132…分割された磁束キーパ層, 13 3…磁東キーパ層を分割する中間層、135…反強磁性層、172…再生素子の上部シー ルド、 173…再生素子の下部シールド、 174…磁気抵抗効果素子、 177…薄 膜磁気ヘッドの媒体対向面. 179…主磁極テーパ部. 181…副磁極先端部。

【図1】

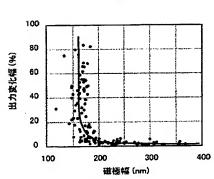
【図2】





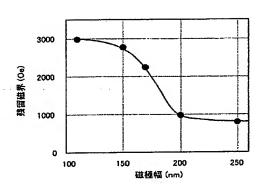
【図3】

図3

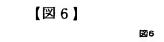


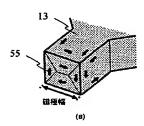
【図4】

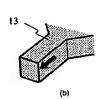
図4

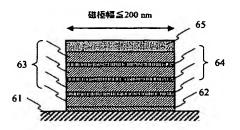


【図5】

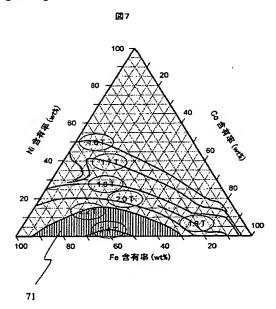




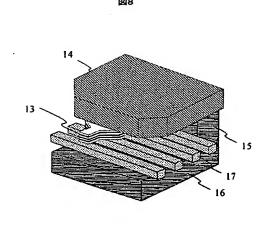




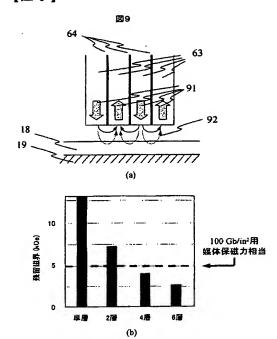
【図7】



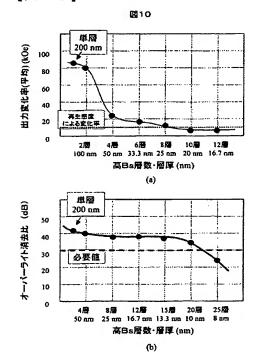
【図8】



【図9】

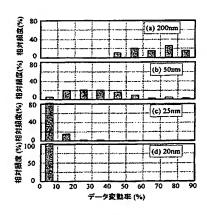


【図10】



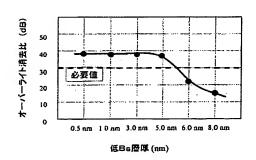
【図11】

図11



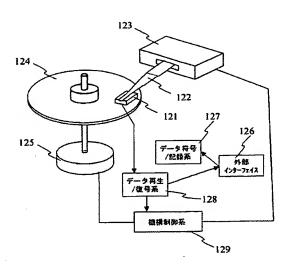
【図12】

図12



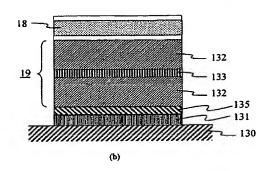
【図13】

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【図14】

図14



【図15】

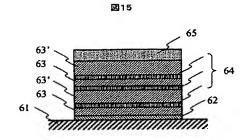
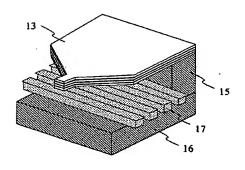
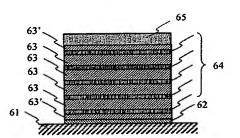


図16

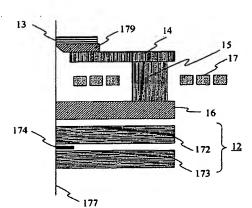
【図17】



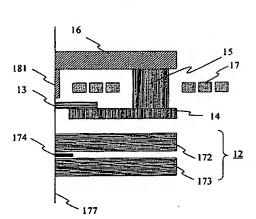
【図16】



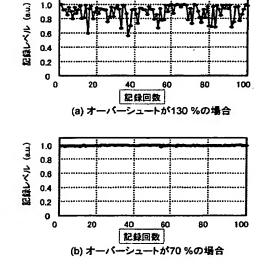
【図18】



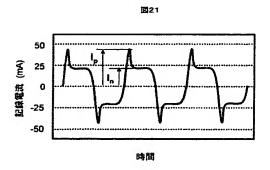
【図19】



【図20】



【図21】

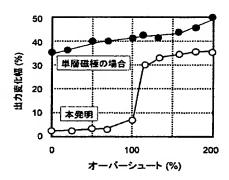


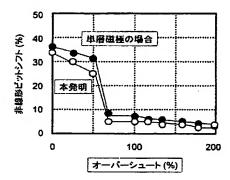
【図22】

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(72)発明者 岡田 泰行

東京都国分寺市東恋ケ窪一丁目280番地 株式会社日立製作所中央研究所内

(72)発明者 望月 正文

東京都国分寺市東恋ケ窪一丁目280番地 株式会社日立製作所中央研究所内

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